

# the johns hopkins News-Letter

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## Puerto Rican students return home after Maria

By JAE CHOI  
For *The News-Letter*

More than four months have passed since Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico in September, leaving many without electricity, cell service and clean water. Many Puerto Rican Hopkins students returned home during the winter holidays to families who are still suffering from the effects of the storm.

Freshman Veronica Montane, a Puerto Rico native, returned home after finals and witnessed firsthand the extent of the damage Hurricane Maria caused.

She described what she saw when she returned home: toppled tress and overturned street lights smashed into buildings.

"For the most part, there's still a lot of debris all around the island, and there are some schools and neighborhoods that have been 100 days without electricity," she said.

For junior Nikki Lopez Suarez, who is also from Puerto Rico, going home was a bittersweet experience.

"I've been at Hopkins two and a half years. I feel

that no matter what, home will be where my family is, and after the hurricane, it was very difficult and hard to process that the place where I grew up was unrecognizable," she said.

It has been months since Hurricane Maria first hit Puerto Rico. The damage is still visible, though not as dramatic as it initially was, according to Montane.

"It was odd when I would mention to my mom, 'everything is so bad,'... and she was like, 'you didn't see the worst of it.' I was seeing it at its best since the storm," Montane said.

"It was very difficult and hard to process that the place where I grew up was unrecognizable."

— NIKKI LOPEZ SUAREZ, JUNIOR

Lopez Suarez echoed Montane's comments and said that although her hometown was not as damaged as more rural places, it still was shocking to see the storm's destruction.

"I live in a very metropolitan area, so obviously things weren't as ruined compared to other places in the island, but you still see stuff like... trees pulled off the ground," she said.

The impact of the storm has been varied across the island. Even though certain urban areas, particularly towards the north, weren't

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In support of a lawsuit against Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, sophomore Madelynn Wellons shared her story as a survivor of campus sexual assault.

## Hopkins sexual assault survivor condemns DeVos

By JACOB TOOK  
News & Features Editor

Sophomore Madelynn Wellons, a survivor of sexual assault on Homewood campus, spoke out against Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos at a press conference on Jan. 25.

Wellons shared her story outside the Department of Education headquarters in support of SurvJustice, Equal Rights Advocates and the Victim Rights Law Center, three law firms who filed a lawsuit against DeVos.

The lawsuit alleges that the Department of Education discriminated against students who report sexual assault by rescinding the

Dear Colleague Letter, an Obama-era guideline advising universities on how to address campus sexual assault.

In September, DeVos issued her highly controversial decision to rescind these guidelines.

One tenet of the guidelines was the suggested 60-day window to resolve cases of sexual assault. Wellons criticized the University for failing to address her case within this window.

"In December 2016, I reported my sexual assault and stalking and it is now February 2018 and I still have no hearing scheduled," she said. "It's making it a lot more difficult for

survivors to speak out. It's making it a lot more difficult for people to talk about these issues and for people to get their justice."

In a post on Facebook, Wellons wrote that the University told her she "just isn't a priority" after her efforts to confirm a hearing for her case.

The University's Title IX Coordinator Joy Gaslevic

could not comment directly on Wellons' case under federal law and University policy, but she responded to Wellons' post.

"The Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) considers every allegation and complaint a priority," Gaslevic wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "The investigation process can

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## Lyft partnership expands Blue Jay Shuttle services

By ALYSSA WOODEN  
News & Features Editor

Since the beginning of the semester, the University has partnered with the ride-hailing app Lyft to provide additional vehicles for students who request Night Rides from Blue Jay Shuttles on Fridays and Saturdays.

Prior to this new partnership, the University used Lyft to help students commute between Homewood and the Bayview Medical Center.

According to Greg Smith, director of the University's Transportation Services, Hopkins began planning the partnership in

the fall, when weekend demand for Blue Jay Shuttles increased dramatically.

"We realized that we either needed to grow significantly... or outsource. So we pursued both processes as options, and it quickly became apparent that buying additional vans to only use on Friday and Saturday nights wasn't a very good fiscal position," Smith said.

He explained that when students request a Night Ride, either through the Transloc app or by calling Transportation Services, dispatchers make a decision whether to send a Lyft vehicle or a Blue Jay Shuttle based on the size of the group.

"If the dispatchers know that you're a group of five or more, it's automatically going to be a Blue Jay Shuttle, because Lyft only gives us the capability to do four seats, and Blue Jay [Shuttles] have 14," he said.

With four or fewer riders, dispatchers take location and wait time into account.

If dispatchers decide to send a Lyft vehicle, students are notified and receive a text message when it arrives. As part of this new partnership, Lyft sends more of their drivers to the neighborhoods around Homewood campus on weekends.

According to Smith, students have offered positive feedback on the partnership. Before launching the program, Transportation Services conducted a focus group with about 10 students to assess student opinion on Blue Jay Shuttles.

"When we told them what we were doing, every single one of them was excited and pleased," Smith said. "So we think we hit it right, and the key now is just making sure people are aware. We want everybody to use Blue Jay Shuttle."

Students who use Night Rides regularly, like sopho

SEE LYFT, PAGE A6

## Bloomberg School rejects tobacco-funded foundation



FILE PHOTO

Philip Morris International produces brands like Marlboro and Bond Street.

By TRISHA PARAYIL  
Staff Writer

The Bloomberg School of Public Health announced on Jan. 25 that it will refuse to accept funds from the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World, an anti-tobacco organization which has ties to global tobacco magnate Philip Morris International (PMI).

Ellen MacKenzie, dean of the Bloomberg School of Public Health, signed a statement alongside representatives of 16 other schools, including Harvard University and the University of Maryland, condemning the Foundation for accepting nearly \$1 billion from PMI, the maker of Marlboro and other major cigarette brands.

The Institute for Global Tobacco Control, an affiliate of the Bloomberg School of Public Health, seeks to prevent death and disease

caused by tobacco products across the world through research on tobacco control policies that can reduce smoking.

Joanna Cohen, the director of the Institute, said that she fully supports MacKenzie's decision.

"The Bloomberg School has had a policy to not accept tobacco money for quite a long time," she said. "But if you get money from the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World, and PMI gives money to the Foundation, it is still an indirect [transfer]. Nothing about the policy has changed."

MacKenzie is concerned that the Foundation's close ties to PMI might affect the integrity of the Foundation's research. In an email to *The News-Letter*, she wrote that she was proud to stand alongside the other deans against the Foundation.

"The Philip Morris-

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#### The race to explore space



Three SciTech writers discuss the past and future of the space race.

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#### Selecting a label in sexuality

Gillian Lelchuk and Jacob Took discuss sexuality and labels in their new column, *The Gay Agenda*. VOICES, PAGE A8

#### Commercials in the Super Bowl

Amelia Isaacs critiques commercials that were featured in the Super Bowl, discussing what worked and what did not. VOICES, PAGE A9

# Researcher examines studies on alcohol abuse

By KAREN WANG  
Staff Writer

Substance abuse researcher Jason Kilmer of the University of Washington presented a talk on Monday explaining the social, physical and psychological effects of substance abuse. The talk was titled “Beer Goggles to Blackouts: The Science of Substance Use.”

Kilmer began his presentation on the covert effects of people’s expectations regarding alcohol, describing an experiment done at the Addictive Behaviors Research Center at the University of Washington. In the experiment, participants were separated into an alcohol-receiving group and a placebo-receiving group. Within each group, participants either had the expectation of receiving alcohol or a non-alcoholic tonic water.

Through this experiment, Kilmer showed that the behaviors of each group could be influenced by subconscious cognitive beliefs.

In groups where participants expected to receive alcohol, observers could not tell the difference between the actions of the placebo group and those of the group who received alcohol.

In the group who received alcohol but did not expect to receive it, participants experienced the physical effects of alcohol but did not attribute those effects to being drunk.

“They got tired, because alcohol is a depressant, but they blamed it on having a long day of school,” Kilmer said. “They got flushed or hot, they blamed it on the temperature of the room.”

Kilmer further explained that one of the biggest predictors of drinking heavily in college and an obstacle to reducing underage drinking is the positive associations students make with alcohol consumption.

“A barrier to considering cutting down is missing out on all the good social stuff from alcohol, [but] we have no evidence it’s coming from alcohol,” Kilmer said. “Your comfort may have as much to do with having a cup in your hand as the contents of that cup.”

Kilmer also highlighted the impact of substance abuse in information processing, explaining that people’s attention becomes more limited when consuming alcohol, a condition he called alcohol myopia.

“The more we drink, the more alcohol impairs how we process information,” Kilmer said. “It narrows our attention down to the most salient internal feeling. That’s what it means for inhibitions to go down. It’s that those inhibitory cues are there, but we attend less and less to them.”

Kilmer also demonstrated the negative effects of

substance abuse on physical performance, drawing from a study on how substance abuse impacts athletes.

“[Alcohol leads to] slower recovery in muscle movements, reduced decision making speed and reduced quality of responses to visual stimuli,” Kilmer said.

In addition, Kilmer said that substance abuse at night prevents users from getting a good night’s sleep.

He also noted that marijuana impairs performance by increasing heart rate, which decreases the maximum duration for which someone can exercise.

Kilmer further explained the idea of developing a tolerance to alcohol, saying that tolerance has more environmental factors than physical influences. He depicted tolerance as a result of conditioning, so that when certain environments are paired with drinking, aspects of the environment — such as time, companionship and taste — become cues associated with drinking.

“If you have a drug like alcohol as a central nervous system depressant, [when the body] knows the alcohol is coming, it starts speeding up,” Kilmer said.

Kilmer concluded that it takes higher amounts of alcohol to reach the same subjective level of intoxication because of the body’s conditioned response, resulting in a tolerance.

He emphasized that overdose might not be the result of excessive consumption but rather a new environment that affects the conditioned response.

“In a new environment, [the body’s response] won’t happen because the cues are not there to make it happen, which can result in an overdose,” Kilmer said.

Sophomore Francesca Kroll stated that she found the lecture interesting and informative.

“I really liked the experiment on the effects of expected alcohol and actual alcohol, and how [these effects] were really similar,” Kroll said. “It showed a lot about how your expectations can influence your response to alcohol [and] how you don’t necessarily need alcohol to have fun.”

Sophomore Jenna Movsowitz said that psychological effects are important to consider.

“People don’t really think about the psychological effects of drinking. They just do it to have fun and be social,” Movsowitz said.

Sophomore Nancy Zhang added that it was interesting how people do not typically think about how social context impacts alcohol consumption.

“It makes me more aware of how much I should be drinking when I am in unfamiliar situations and [have] to be more careful,” she said.

# Homewood hosts Alexander Hamilton exhibit

By EMILY MCDONALD  
Staff Writer

The travelling collection *Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America* is currently on display at the Homewood Museum.

The exhibit contains items from Hopkins Special Collections, as well as some on loan from the New-York Historical Society, including a bust of Hamilton and a series of his handwritten letters.

Research assistant Jim Ashton gave a talk titled “Hamilton and the Revolution: Patriotic Songs New, Old, and Rebellious” on Thursday, Feb. 1 at the Homewood Museum. The talk was the first of a two-part lecture series meant to complement the exhibit.

Ashton earned his Ph.D. in history from Hopkins in 2015 and wrote his dissertation on the link between patriotism and nationalist ideologies with the culture and practice of music in 19th century America.

He first became interested in the subject when he decided to analyze Lin-Manuel Miranda’s *Hamilton: An American Musical* from the standpoint of a musical historian.

“This musical that has taken American culture by storm,” Ashton said, “What links this to Hamilton himself, and what makes all of this significant in terms of patriotism and nationalism in America?”

To demonstrate the importance of music in American patriotism, Ashton told the story of a band in Baltimore which decided to play the French national anthem during the French Revolution. Although the song had been popular in the U.S. in earlier decades, the audience began booing and calling for more patriotic tunes, such as “Yankee Doodle” and “The President’s March.”

According to Ashton, this incident highlighted the effect of historical context on popular music.

“As tensions mounted, patriotic songs signalled where the local support lay,” he said. “The French anthem had become evidence of subversion, of un-Americanness.”

Ashton noted that Hamilton understood and appreciated the role of music in patriotic sentiment.

“For one, he admired people who were able to... signal their gentlemanly refinement, their status as a gentleman, through musical knowledge,” he said. “This was, in the minds of Alexander Hamilton and other federalists, crucial to claiming a leadership role in the legal American republic. This was a way to prove your patriotism.”

Ashton argued that the backdrop of the American Revolution allowed for new expressions of patriotism and nationalism.

“This was a period when Americans were creating a national identity,” he said. “Americans were writing the terms of how they defined and celebrated their nation on a largely

blank slate in 1798, and Hamilton himself was engaged in this project.”

According to Ashton, moments in history such as the American Revolution caused an increase in patriotism in popular culture.

“In moments of crisis, nationalist flux and creative nationalism, Americans engage in what I think of as a popularizing kind of patriotism,” he said.

Ashton believes that *Hamilton* is a modern and important example of this kind of popular patriotism.

“*Hamilton* is such a refreshing wind that is blowing through the dusty old house of patriotic sentiment,” he said. “It’s not that it teaches us anything new about the ideological elements of American identity through its words. In fact, lyrically, *Hamilton*

bears resemblance to previous patriotic music in that it’s a child of its time.”

Ashton noted the difference between *Hamilton*, which expresses patriotic ideals through pop music, and typical patriotic music, which is only listened to in specific settings.

“*Hamilton* the musical is the first example that we’ve had in a long time in America of popularizing patriotism, where it is a new and not yet ritualized kind of patriotic performance that happens outside of the accepted canon of patriotic rituals,” he said. “You can go see it yourself in a setting that has nothing to do with July Fourth or with a sporting event.”

Julie Rose, the director and curator of the Homewood Museum, discussed the newfound interest in American history that came with the premiere of *Hamilton*.

“Today, the public is eager to learn about these marginalized American histories, as Miranda has been able to show through performance. And this kind of historical storytelling is an amazing tool,” she said.

“Through music and through dance and through stage performing we have — we mean our American consciousness — this new interest in American history.”

Rose also noted that the musical depicts Ham-



FILE PHOTO

Research assistant Jim Ashton discussed the significance of modern depictions of Hamilton.

ilton differently from most history textbooks.

“This is an amazing opportunity to think about how history is complicated, history is messy. As to that, Miranda writes a musical that really offers us alternative narratives about what we think of the Founding Fathers’ stories,” she said.

Christopher Consolino, a history graduate student whose focus is in early modern British and Dutch Atlantic worlds, history of political economy and intellectual and cultural history, teaches an intersession course on Alexander Hamilton. He said that the inspiration for the course came from listening to the *Hamilton* soundtrack.

“I wanted to teach a course about early America, and it seemed like the perfect opportunity to think about early America through the lens of a founder who’s really unusual compared to a lot of his colleagues,” he said. “We look at his depiction in the popular imagination.”

Consolino believes that the recent emergence of Hamilton as a figure in popular culture is due to the differences between him and other Founding Fathers.

“Hamilton is not even born in the 13 colonies. He comes up from the Caribbean,” he said. “Compared to Thomas Jefferson... he comes from relative obscurity, has a stain of illegitimacy on his record and his fortunes really rise with the American Revolution.”

According to Consolino, these differences between Hamilton and other Founding Fathers lend themselves to an atypical retelling of the traditional narrative.

“When you have someone whose story seems very different from the individuals we normally remember as being the leading lights of the Revolution, it offers an opportunity to challenge that narrative and explore different aspects of the

American Revolution,” he said.

Consolino addressed differing depictions of Hamilton in recent pop culture.

“Sometimes I think our desire to cast individuals in these sort of fairly flat, unnuanced roles lends itself to two competing depictions of a person,” he said. “From a civic perspective, based on the questions we ask, we can go back and see these founders in a different light.”

Consolino also noted that in an interview about the making of *Hamilton*, Miranda mentioned that he identified with Hamilton’s story as one of a young immigrant. He believes that this impacted *Hamilton*’s success.

“It’s interesting to get *Hamilton* in a time when questions of immigration and community and even the cultural and demographic makeup of the U.S. are at the forefront,” he said. “We’re able to reach back into the lives of these historical figures and discover parts of the narrative that maybe existed in the shadows.”

Senior Maria Moncaliano attended Ashton’s talk because she was interested in learning more about the historical background of Alexander Hamilton.

“I love *Hamilton* the musical, and I’m very interested in the history of Alexander Hamilton as a Founding Father,” she said.

Overall, Moncaliano said that she enjoyed the talk.

“The speaker was very knowledgeable, and it was very intersectional,” she said. “They talked about music and history and theater and patriotism.”

Moncaliano also appreciated the items on display in the exhibit.

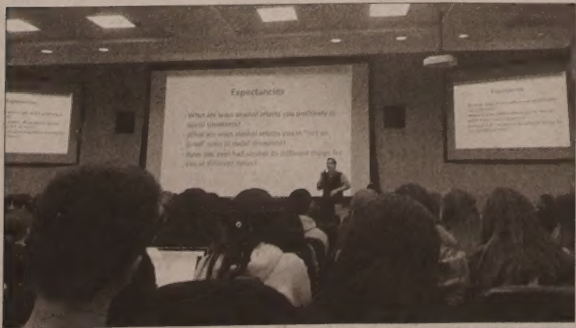
“I really enjoyed seeing some of the handwritten letters from Alexander Hamilton and reading about his history,” she said. “I liked seeing his bust.”

## Errata: Feb. 1 Edition

In the Feb. 1, 2018, edition of *The News-Letter*, in the article “After 50 years, Humanities Center changes its name,” the original article misinterpreted a quote by Professor Leonardo Lisi. It did not clarify that “Comparative Literature” was a name suggested by the Tabb Committee. The name “comparative literature” was not an option considered by the faculty in the Department.

Additionally, the original article did not define the Boone Chair position. It is an endowed professorship within the Department, not the chair of the Department.

*The News-Letter* regrets these errors.



COURTESY OF KAREN WANG

Many of the students at the event were athletes or involved in Greek life.

## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

# Baltimore sees 72 hours without gun homicide



FILE PHOTO

Previous ceasefire weekends have encouraged an end to gun violence.

By ANNA GORDON  
Staff Writer

Baltimore held its third ceasefire weekend from Feb. 2-4. It was the first successful ceasefire, with no homicides taking place for 72 hours, despite an average city-wide homicide rate of one murder a day. Over the first two ceasefire weekends, which took place last August and November, at least one homicide occurred before 72 hours elapsed.

The movement started in May 2017, when the City's per capita homicide rate was already on track to being the worst in Baltimore history. Together, concerned citizens formed the organization Baltimore Ceasefire 365 to organize a citywide request to halt gun violence for 72 hours.

Last weekend's ceasefire is the first since Mayor Catherine Pugh fired former Baltimore Police Commissioner Kevin Davis and replaced him with then Deputy Commissioner Darryl De Sousa.

Baltimore had a total of 343 homicides last year, setting a new record rate for killings per capita, with 55.8 killings per 100,000 people. According to *The Baltimore Sun*, Pugh had become frustrated with the rise in crime and hoped that De Sousa would be able to effectively reduce the homicide rate.

Ceasefire asked the people of Baltimore to celebrate life by planning community events. They hope to eventually bring the murder rate down to zero by promoting these events.

Homewood Friends, a Quaker community, hosted a screening and discussion of the film *13th* to honor the ceasefire on Friday. The film focused on the 13th amendment, which abolished slavery except in the case of criminals. It also discussed the consequences of mass incarceration in the U.S. and how that relates to issues of race and class.

J.C. Faulk, who led a discussion at the film screening, hoped that the ceasefire would encourage people from more privileged communities to combat race and class discrimination in Baltimore.

"Most of us can sit around and pretend we don't know what's happening, but we know what's going on," Faulk said. "We'd just rather go home and not deal with it if we're not being directly affected by it."

He also had a message for Hopkins students in particular.

"Don't believe what Hopkins tries to make you feel about the black community in Baltimore," he said. "They make students afraid of the black community coming into this school... Hopkins has done some of the most

egregious stuff to black people that any institution in this City has done."

He encouraged students to take an active role in issues affecting Baltimore.

"Get out, and hear the real stories," Faulk said. "Get involved. Get outside of the gates that Hopkins tells you not to go outside of, and you'll see that there's some really amazing human beings out there."

On Saturday from 12-1 p.m., supporters held signs on Greenmount and 33rd Street in order to show their solidarity with the ceasefire movement and commemorate victims of gun violence.

Ralph Moore, a Baltimore resident and Hopkins alum from the Class of 1974, said he came to the Greenmount event because he believes in peace.

"This is important," Moore said. "It might not be directly causal in terms of these demonstrations and activities actually causing a decrease in violence, but I think spiritually it has an impact. It raises a consciousness and awareness in the community for the need for less gun violence in Baltimore."

Tyree Colion, a Baltimore resident responsible for the "No Shoot Zone" graffiti and signs often found across the City, said he came across the demonstration on Greenmount by chance that day. He said that serving time in prison was a turning point in his life and wanted to share his personal story with the group in order to build hope.

"When I was locked up, I was developing a sense that I should stop people from shooting," Colion said.

After prison, Colion went home to a neighborhood that, within a four block radius, had five murders in two months. Feeling that he needed to take action, he decided to put up a "No Shoot Zone" sign.

"I counted one week. I counted two weeks. I counted three weeks. Before I knew it, it was a whole year and there was no shooting," Colion said.

Mica Howes, a Master's student at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, thought that the ceasefire weekend was especially important because it raises awareness for those who feel removed from violence in Baltimore, including Hopkins students.

"Especially in relation to the ceasefire event, a lot of white people in Baltimore don't necessarily engage with the ceasefire in the same way," Howes said. "As a white Hopkins student, I think a lot of people who share my identities feel like it's not really their problem... we live here, and we need to be engaging with these issues."

# Maryland introduces Ban the Box legislation

By EMILY MCDONALD  
Staff Writer

Maryland became the second state to bar institutions of higher education from asking about previous arrests and convictions on application forms on Jan. 12.

The Maryland Fair Access to Education Act of 2017 was passed after the Maryland State Senate overrode Governor Larry Hogan's veto. The bill is a part of the nationwide Ban the Box initiative, which seeks to remove the checkbox that asks about criminal records from job and college applications.

Dennis O'Shea, a spokesperson for Hopkins, expressed the University's stance on the new legislation in an email to *The News-Letter*.

"The University also has long believed that the admissions process should involve a holistic evaluation of an applicant's academic and personal accomplishments, and that a criminal record does not preclude an applicant from achieving academic success," O'Shea wrote.

He elaborated further on the University's position regarding hiring former inmates.

"Johns Hopkins works, particularly in employee hiring, to reduce the obstacles that former inmates face when reintegrating into the community," he wrote.

O'Shea also noted that the law applies only to undergraduate institutions and not graduate programs.

Junior AJ Tsang, the executive vice president of the Student Government Association (SGA), voiced the SGA's support for the new bill.

"Since September, when we passed a formal resolution in support of the Ban the Box initiative, we've been ardent supporters of having both public and private universities remove the criminal conviction box from their applications," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

He said that SGA will continue to work to bring Ban the Box to Homewood Campus as the legislative changes are put into effect in the coming months.

"We were elated to learn that the Maryland State Senate overrode Governor Hogan's initial veto of the bill, and are watching closely to see that colleges remove the box with great speed and voracity," Tsang said.

Tsang expressed concern that although the bill applies to any Maryland university that receives state funding, private institutions such as Hopkins would take longer to implement its policies.

"[Hopkins] can be painstakingly slow to implement progressive policies that would otherwise take immediate effect in a public institution," Tsang wrote.

Tsang noted that SGA is taking measures to ensure that the Ban the Box initiative is implemented at Hopkins.

"In SGA's latest communication with the Office of Admissions, before the bill was officially passed this month, we implored

them to ban the box on the Johns Hopkins application even if the new bill didn't explicitly extend to private institutions in Maryland," he wrote.

He added that he would like to see the University act as a leader in instituting this policy.

"It's critical that Hopkins, the largest university in the state, follow through on banning the box no matter what," he wrote.

Because Hopkins allows applicants to use the Common Application, the Universal College Application or the Coalition Application in its admission process, potential applicants would still have to disclose their criminal records.

However, the new legislation would require Hopkins and other institutions which use third-party applications to post a no-

**"It's critical that Hopkins, the largest university in the state, follow through on banning the box."**

— AJ TSANG,  
SGA EXECUTIVE  
VICE PRESIDENT

O'Shea noted that Hopkins will comply with these new regulations.

"Johns Hopkins University accepts applications through several online multi-institutional applications, and we will be fully in compliance when the new law goes into effect on Feb. 11," he wrote.

Stanley Andrisse, a postdoctoral fellow at the Hopkins School of Medicine and an active member of the Ban the Box Organization who testified before the Maryland state legislature in support of the bill, addressed the use of third-party admissions applications like the Commonapp in an email to *The News-Letter*.

"The real question is why are these third parties (like the Common App) still asking this question?" he wrote. "We need to open gateways to higher education, such as supporting admissions practices that do not disadvantage folks who have already paid their debt to society."

Andrisse has also been in contact with the Office of Admissions to ensure that the new bill is implemented at Hopkins.

"I am working with

Hopkins' Admissions office to include language on their websites, applications, and other materials pertaining to admissions to Hopkins, that Hopkins is open and accepting to all," he wrote.

Tsang noted that removing Hopkins from the list of universities that use the Common Application could potentially disadvantage applicants.

"There's a lot lost by having the box still on the overall Common Application, but at the same time, taking Hopkins out of that large pool... the one drawback that I might see is Hopkins could end up disadvantaging a lot of other students. One of the Common App's main goals was that it was meant to equalize the playing field for people applying to colleges," he said.

The Ban the Box initiative

originally focused on pushing legislation which would bar potential employers from asking about an applicant's criminal history. The organization's focus recently shifted to include college applications.

Tsang believes that the inclusion of college applications in the Ban the Box initiative is important.

"It really shows a push to recognize that there are many different institutions in society that play a role in blocking the restitution and rehabilitation of former criminals. Employers, they're just one level — they represent the job market, but of course, to even get into the job market, a lot of times these days you need to have a higher degree," Tsang said.

Andrisse noted that many states have already banned the box on job applications.

"The movement is building steam," he wrote, "There are over 30 states and 150 cities and counties that have banned the box on employment applications... just as with college, employers should focus on qualifications, not criminal records."

Tsang claimed that Gov. Hogan's arguments against the bill, which include concerns about student safety, are largely unfounded.

"Gov. Hogan is really overstating the risk to

students in that it's been shown through multiple academic studies that education among both normal applicants and applicants who have a criminal history just lowers the risk of criminal offense," Tsang said.

He further criticized Gov. Hogan for failing to make an informed choice about whether to implement the policy.

"Hogan's words are really just rhetoric. He didn't back up these things with any evidence."

Similarly, Andrisse noted that education significantly lowers the chances that someone will return to prison.

"Research indicates that higher education is transformational for justice-involved individuals returning to our communities from incarceration," he wrote.

In his email, Tsang also addressed the potential effects of the bill on the student body at Hopkins.

"I think that banning the box will aid in the long-term effect of diversifying the student body of Hopkins, though it is still only one of myriad action items that the University must push forward on to cultivate a more inclusive environment," he wrote.

Tsang stressed the importance of working to eradicate the discrimination many people with criminal records face today.

"With the nation and world as socioeconomically divided as they are today, it is imperative that Hopkins strive to address the fundamental factors that drive such inequality, such as how our country systemically and reprehensibly turns its back on those with past criminal records and prevents them from reintegrating into society," he wrote.

He further elaborated on why he thinks Hopkins should take up the campaign as a leader bringing Ban the Box to institutions in Maryland regardless of legislation.

"Banning the box is the least Hopkins can do to ameliorate the status quo," Tsang wrote.

Andrisse also believes that more can be done to eliminate discrimination against those with a criminal record.

"We can all start by re-adjusting our language. Language drives perceptions and perceptions eventually drive policies," he wrote.



FILE PHOTO

Last October, about 100 students and community members gathered on the Beach for a Ban the Box rally.

## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

# Bloomberg dean refuses tobacco industry funds

SMOKING, FROM A1

funded 'Foundation for a Smoke-Free World' drew our attention because of the long history of efforts by this tobacco company to undermine effective and evidence-based public health policies," she wrote.

The mission of the Foundation, as stated on its website, is to support research to advance smoking cessation, promote harm-reduction and prevention methods, and prepare tobacco farmers for reduced demand.

In September, the World Health Organization (WHO) released a report titled "Framework Convention on Tobacco Control" which condemned the Foundation for working in the interests of the tobacco industry, which it alleged are antithetical to those of public health.

Derek Yach, president of the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World and a former senior official at the WHO, argued against those claims.

"PMI have absolutely no involvement, influence or control over the Foundation," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

According to the Foundation's bylaws, they will consult an independent review panel in the allocation of grant funding for research projects and require grant recipients to make their raw data available for peer review.

Yach compared the Foundation's independence to the Truth Initiative, a campaign from the American Legacy Foundation, a nonprofit tobacco control organization established from a settlement after 46 states sued four tobacco conglomerates for the cost of healthcare for tobacco-related disease.

Cohen did not see similarities between the two foundations.

"In the case of the Truth Initiative, tobacco companies were forced to pay those funds through a legal settlement," she said. "In the case of the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World, this is a voluntary contribution from Philip Morris International."

Frances Stillman, an associate professor at the Bloomberg School of Public Health and former director of the Institute for Global Tobacco Control, agreed with Cohen that it was not fair to compare the Foundation to the Truth Initiative.

"I think they are very different," Stillman said. "I had funding and other researchers had funding from Legacy, but we wouldn't consider accepting funding from this foundation as it stands."

Cohen said that PMI has an ulterior motive in helping to establish the Foundation, specifically related to a new product that PMI is marketing that does not release smoke but a nicotine-containing vapor.

According to Cohen, the name 'Foundation for a Smoke-Free World' rather than 'Foundation for a Tobacco-Free World' indicates that the Foundation was set-up as a way to market products that do not cause smoke.

"It is very important for institutions to stay away from being an accomplice in the tobacco industry's efforts to promote their products," Cohen said.

Rushabh Doshi, executive secretary of the Stu-

dent Government Association (SGA) and co-president of the anti-smoking student group Hopkins Kicks Butts, believes that the sentiment behind MacKenzie's statement should extend to a University-wide smoking policy.

"What Dean MacKenzie has done by rejecting the funding from the Foundation should set a precedent," he said.

Some members of SGA have campaigned to make the Homewood Campus tobacco-free but face opposition from some students and faculty.

"In our talks with the administration, they have been open to our ideas," Doshi said. "The problem is with the students, and that's where the SGA comes in."

Anthony Boutros, the sophomore class president and a co-president of Hopkins Kicks Butts, also supports the initiative to make the campus tobacco-free.

"We need to ban tobacco products, and we need to make sure that people who do use tobacco products, if they choose, have access to effective resources to be able to stop," Boutros said.

By KELECHI  
NWANKWOALA  
For *The News-Letter*

As part of Black History Month, the Homewood Museum invited Dion Banks and Kisha Petticolas, co-founders of the community organization Eastern Shore Network for Change (ESNC), to give a talk, "Reflections on Pine: The Movement Continues" on Saturday.

In their talk, Banks and Petticolas discussed the 1967 Pine Rebellion in Cambridge, Md. and explored its legacy today. The rebellion, which stemmed from tensions over racial segregation, had resulted in the burning of the predominantly African-American Pine Street, destroying many of the businesses there.

Banks and Petticolas met in 2012 while managing a local campaign to create environments in which residents of Cambridge could come together and find common ground to talk about issues.

They began the talk by explaining relevant historical events during the mid-20th century. At this time, the Phillips Pack-

ing Company, an industrial manufacturer, was the economic center of Cambridge. According to Dion, the company employed over 10,000 people at its peak.

The company provided stable work to Cambridge residents, resulting in two segregated but self-sustaining communities: Pine Street, a predominantly African-American neighborhood, and Race Street, the town's main commercial street located one block away from Pine Street.

Banks noted that Pine Street was home to many small businesses, churches and schools.

"You could do everything on Pine Street," Banks said. "It was like New York."

However, the company



ELLIE HALLENBORG/PHOTO EDITOR

Local activists discussed the riots and fire that took place in a black Md. neighborhood in 1967.

began to falter, partially due to the loss of lucrative government contracts. In response, the company began to downsize and lay off workers. Unrest within the town increased as more and more black jobs were lost.

"There became a movement to protect white jobs over black jobs," Banks said.

Around this time, Gloria Richardson, an educated social worker who was unable to find work in Cambridge, collaborated with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to create the Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee.

"From 1960 to 1964 she changed the landscape of civil rights politics in Cambridge," Banks said.

Richardson's achievements include getting the peace treaty of Cambridge signed by John F. Kennedy and being one of a few women asked to speak at the 1963 March on Washington in Washington, D.C.

Banks and Petticolas explained that although people tend to merge Cambridge's movement with the national civil rights movement, there are vital differences between the two.

"Where Martin [Luther King Jr.] was talking about public accommodations, sitting at the same lunch counter, being able to vote... we had been voting for years in Cambridge. Our issues were housing, education and healthcare," Petticolas said.

Some believe that Cambridge residents set Pine Street on fire in response to a speech by H. Rap Brown, the chairman of SNCC, about the government's nonchalance in the face of overwhelming poverty.

However, Petticolas said that Richardson offered a different explanation.

Richardson told Petticolas and Banks that an owner of a local hotel with the surname Green started the fire.

He thought that if he burned down the abandoned school on Pine Street he could buy the property cheaply and use the land to expand his hotel.

However, the fire spread to almost all the businesses in the area, in-

cluding his own, and firemen refused to help quell the flames. Three years later, Mr. Green committed suicide.

In 2012, Banks and Petticolas had a community conversation in Bethel church, a community center, where they asked a panel of people to share their stories and memories of the rebellion.

However as the conversation began, they began to feel anger and tension in the room.

"During that time we realized that this was the very first public conversation about what had happened at that time," Petticolas said. "The story about the purposeful setting of the fire and why it happened had not come to light... there are people who believe white people

came and burned down our neighborhood, and there are people who believe black people burned their own neighborhood."

— KISHA  
PETTICOLAS,  
COMMUNITY  
ORGANIZER

This discourse inspired Banks and Petticolas to call upon many stakeholders in the community.

They contacted people in the police department, county tourism, community radio, the art center, clergy, educators, the chamber of commerce, county officials and the mayor.

Together they created a four day program, "Reflections on Pine," which aimed to reclaim the narrative around the fire and to have frank conversations about its lasting legacy, that lasted from July 20-23.

The event included an exhibit, a music festival, a unity walk around Pine and Race Street and the unveiling of a mural celebrating the history of influential black people in the town.

This year, Banks and Petticolas hope to hold "Reflections on Pine" again but on a smaller scale.

They look forward to commemorating more of their heritage and to seeing what the power of reclaiming narrative does for the citizens of Cambridge.

"There is a certain pride that comes with reclaiming your story," Petticolas said. "You stand a little taller when you're able to tell your own story and people actually listen."

## What is Puerto Rico like after Maria?

PUERTO RICO, FROM A1

as heavily affected, municipalities such as Morovis and other regions in central and eastern Puerto Rico suffered extensive damage.

The storm brought attention to the quality of the island's infrastructure. Montane recalled a massive power outage last year that she believes is indicative of the structural problems facing Puerto Rico.

"When I got home, there wasn't any power," she said. "It was a couple of days before they got it back up and running... the infrastructure was weak before the storm hit."

Lopez Suarez further discussed the Puerto Rican infrastructure, though she believes that the destruction was mostly due to the strength of Hurricane Maria rather than poor infrastructure.

"Frankly, the houses, if they're made legally, are made to withstand a hurricane," she said.

The hurricane has also deeply impacted the island's ecosystem. Puerto Rico's El Yunque National Forest was devastated by the hurricane, and although the rainforest itself is recovering, species such as the highly-endangered Puerto Rican Parrot face an uncertain future.

"I know the hurricane decimated the national rainforest. It's subtle things

like that that upset you," Lopez Suarez said.

Though much of the hurricane's observable effects were economic and physical, the hurricane also had a personal and emotional impact. Montane was still in her first semester at college when the storm hit.

"It's hard to just be a bystander and watch it happen," she said. "You want to be there so you can be with your family... But at the same time, no one wants you to have to go through that."

Lopez Suarez expressed similar sentiments about the difficulty of managing academic responsibilities amid difficult familial circumstances.

"It was really hard to focus," she said. "It's especially hard when you feel useless, but going back wouldn't help [your family] either, so you have to keep on studying or keep on going about your life here."

Puerto Ricans have also dealt with disrupted telecommunications. Lopez Suarez noted that many Puerto Rican students at Hopkins were unable to call their relatives to confirm their safety.

"I was lucky; I couldn't contact my parents for only eight hours. I knew friends who couldn't contact their parents or their relatives for a week or two," Lopez

Suarez said.

Despite the negative effects the hurricane may have inflicted, Montane and Lopez Suarez, as well as other students, have mentioned increased solidarity and closeness within their communities as a silver lining that emerged during the difficult circumstances of the past four months.

Shortly after the disaster, many students at the University rallied to support a bake sale to raise funds for relief efforts in Puerto Rico. Senior Laura Bou Delgado, who worked with Montane to organize the bake sale, was impressed by the outpouring of support from the community.

"It was refreshing and humbling to have so many of my friends and even some who weren't close friends at Hopkins worry and show up for me," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "I'm entirely grateful."

Montane added that the community that formed back in September has only grown closer over the last four months.

"Since we got together after the storm for the bake sale and everything, we decided to start a Puerto Rican club, so that's one good thing that came from it," Montane said. "We have a little group chat called 'PR at HOP.'"

In addition, some students, like Lopez Suarez, said that Hurricane Maria made them appreciate their family and friends more.

"It puts a lot of things in perspective, but I don't think it's changed anything in a negative light. If anything, it gives you a sense of gratitude. Spending Christmas with my extended family was a really heart-warming experience," Lopez Suarez said.



COURTESY OF VERONICA MONTANE

Students rally outside a school in Puerto Rico that has no electricity.

# SGA discusses protest guidelines controversy

By **TIANCHENG LYU**  
Staff Writer

During their third meeting of the spring semester, the Student Government Association (SGA) heard presentations by representatives from the University's Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and the Interfaith Center.

Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) Calvin Smith expressed his willingness to work with SGA to foster a community of safe fraternal organizations at Hopkins.

"The first chapter was established at Hopkins in 1877, one year after the founding of the institution," Smith said. "[FSL] oversees the 23 social organizations at Hopkins, and if the SGA, as the body that represents the undergraduate population, has any needs or concerns, we'd always love to collaborate with you."

Next, Kathy Schnurr, the University chaplain, introduced the mission of the Interfaith Center as the main base for both C a m p u s Ministries as well as informal educational and social gatherings.

"We mainly oversee the spiritual wellbeing of our community," she said. "We're also in partnership with LGBTQ Life and many other offices on campus. Our office is a confidential resource, [meaning that] unlike the Counseling Center, if you come to us, our conversation remains entirely private."

Schnurr also presented the Interfaith Center as a source of mental health support for Hopkins students.

"We believe that taking care of your spiritual self is a big part of being a healthy person," she said. "So we help students, especially young adults still in the exploratory phase, navigate difficult family, social situations and relationship issues. We also assist students in negotiating with the faculty when they have academic schedule conflicts due to religious reasons."

Next, SGA discussed the revised version of the "Guidelines for Students in Support of Free Expression through Protests and Demonstrations."

This past year, the University revised the protest guidelines. According to an email sent to students from Homewood Student Affairs, "[The revisions] help to safeguard and support open, vibrant expression; to prevent harassment and discrimination; and to make sure student activists are fully aware of the resources available to them from the university."

Before opening up the floor to discussions, Executive Vice President of the SGA AJ Tsang, commented on the problems with the older version of the guidelines.

"The University usually

consults the SGA during the process of drafting the guidelines," Tsang said. "The initial version, [which] we saw last fall, was about 10 to 15 pages and [contained] a lot of legal jargon. It's written by lawyers and not so much by the deans and other administrators of the school."

Senior Class President Kwame Alston, argued that it's necessary for the SGA to reach out to other student groups.

"It may be beneficial to gather the heads of the organizations most affected by these new guidelines," he said.

He elaborated on SGA's responsibilities in the wake of the new guidelines, adding that they needed to keep in touch with students.

"We should get their opinions on this before we say anything official. Our final opinions need to be reflective of the perspectives of the entire student body, not just our own."

Freshman Class Senator Lauren Paulet pointed

**"I'm not going to pay that much attention to the new guidelines."**

**— KWAME ALSTON, SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT**

out the merits of the new guidelines, such as the University's encouragement that students schedule protests and demonstrations ahead of time.

"I found the guidelines to be very helpful and peaceful. I especially thought that it was nice for [the University]... to provide locations and space for student groups to express their voices," she said.

She also expressed her concern regarding the guidelines' lack of transparency in illustrating the consequences of student violations.

Alston responded to Paulet's comment with his own concerns as the leader of the Black Student Union, an active student group on campus. "As a leader of a student organization that has done a lot of protests on campus, I'm not going to pay that much attention to the new guidelines because student protests sometimes need to go to the rounds of things that aren't 'acceptable' to make changes," he said. "But I will be very interested in knowing what consequences I'm signing myself up for."

While acknowledging the fact that listing the possible consequences in the guidelines might seem intimidating, he also stressed its necessity.

"I know it might look a lot more negative when you put [the consequences] on the website, but I need to know what I, as a leader, will get members of my student organization into," Alston said. "The consequences don't have to go directly into the document, but we should at least have access, like a link, to them."

SGA aims to hear the opinions of student groups and continue their discussion on the University's new guidelines.

# Sophomore speaks out against DeVos legislation



COURTESY OF SURVJUSTICE

Wellons spoke out at a press conference outside the Department of Education headquarters on Jan. 25.

DEVOS, FROM A1

sometimes take considerable time to ensure that cases are handled fairly."

Junior Mayuri Viswanathan and senior Dani Pitkoff, the co-directors of the Sexual Assault Resource Unit (SARU), strongly condemned DeVos for rescinding the guidelines.

They said that this decision took away power from survivors to hold their universities accountable.

Viswanathan said that they were proud of Wellons and inspired by her choice to speak out, adding that her experience shows why it is important to challenge DeVos' legislation.

"Broadly speaking, there have been repeated instances where cases have not been completed within the 60 day timeline," she said. "The lack of enforcement for that requirement is definitely concerning because, in cases like [Wellons'], it doesn't really give her much else to do or anywhere else to go."

Soon after DeVos rescinded the guidelines in 2017, Vice Provost for Institutional Equity Kim Hewitt affirmed that the University would continue to observe its current policies regarding sexual assault, which largely conformed with the guidelines.

Pitkoff said that SARU wrote an open letter at the end of last semester encouraging the University to keep its existing policy despite the federal changes instituted by DeVos.

"We immediately went into crisis mode because we had to make sure that Johns Hopkins University held the old standards," she said. "Through that effort we had the provost commit, right now at least, to following our current sexual assault policy."

Carly Mee, a staff lawyer at SurvJustice who works with Wellons, said that DeVos' decision prompted a lot of uncertainty.

"We just don't know what has changed," Mee said. "The guidance made things a lot less certain, and so we don't know what schools are going to change. It unfortunately gave them the leeway to change a lot of different things."

Viswanathan added that Wellons' actions could give hope to other survivors of sexual assault.

"I know many other survivors on campus that have faced experiences similarly frustrating to hers who are really relying on the efforts of individuals like her in cases like this to advance and find justice for themselves," she said. "Hopefully people can feel a little bit less alone and know that there are many other people out there who have not only experienced the same thing but are able to, with each other's support, really come together to build strength and resiliency."

According to Wellons, watching the #MeToo movement unfold during the fall of 2017 partially inspired her to speak out against DeVos.

As part of the #MeToo movement, survivors of sexual assault around the world shared their stories on social media with the hashtag #MeToo to show the extent to which sexual violence affects people in our society.

Wellons said that #MeToo showed her that she wasn't alone.

"Before the #MeToo movement I never thought I would ever talk about this publicly because it just wasn't a thing that was done very often," Wellons said. "People were being punished to some degree for what they had done. I felt like speaking out about these kinds of issues could actually lead to some genuine change."

Viswanathan said that survivors of sexual assault should not have to share their stories in order to create change.

"#MeToo was incredible

in fostering solidarity and creating the environment in which those conversations could happen, but it is unfortunate that still the person that it happened to has to say #MeToo," Viswanathan said.

Gaslevic wrote that the OIE has recently received more reports of sexual misconduct, which she explained may be in part due to the #MeToo movement and the OIE's campus-wide training efforts.

Pitkoff said that she is constantly amazed by the bravery of those who speak out against sexual assault.

"I don't think we can emphasize enough though how much [Wellons] is really raising up the voices of so many people on this campus," she said.

She added that the OIE will release a campus climate survey, an opportunity for students to anonymously share their experiences.

The survey will collect information which will assist the University's efforts surrounding sexual misconduct, prevention and education, according to Gaslevic.

She wrote that the survey seeks to better understand student perceptions of the problem of sexual assault on campus and gauge student awareness of the resources available to survivors.

"If someone is considering reporting, we strongly urge them to contact OIE to discuss reporting options, interim measures that may be available and appropriate, as well as on- and off-campus confidential and non-confiden-

tial resources," Gaslevic wrote. "We want students to know that they can even have this initial OIE conversation anonymously."

Gaslevic added that the OIE is focused on improving the process of addressing discrimination and harassment at the University and wrote that we need to work together.

"It's on all of us at Hopkins to work together to make our community the best it can be," she wrote. "OIE looks forward to working with the community to shape future sexual misconduct prevention and education efforts."

She expanded upon the goals of OIE and called on students to help them enact change on Homewood Campus.

"OIE is focused on a daily basis to enhance the handling of discrimination and harassment matters at Hopkins — thus, we all share the same goal and need to work together to help solve the problem of sexual misconduct," Gaslevic wrote.

Mee urged survivors to make use of the resources available to them, including those on-campus and community organizations which support survivors.

"Reach out to organizations like SurvJustice or others that can make this process feel less lonely and intimidating," she said. "Not everyone has the support of parents or other students, but there are people out there who will support you."

As a general body member of SARU, Wellons said that she spoke with Pitkoff and Viswanathan about her experiences.

She added that the sexual assault hotline is a good resource for survivors who aren't sure how to start the process of reporting their assault.

Wellons said that she would like to see the culture at Hopkins change for the better. She spoke directly to survivors of sexual assault who might be following her story.

"Speaking out can be difficult, but ultimately it comes with so many benefits," Wellons said. "There's just such a lovely community of support that when you speak out, even though you might have to go through some things, it can ultimately make the world a better place."



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## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

## Blue Jay Shuttle and Lyft form partnership

LYFT, FROM A1

Students who use Night Rides regularly, like sophomore Teya Bergamaschi, have experienced long waiting times after requesting a Blue Jay Shuttle.

"I use [Night Rides] maybe once or twice a week... mostly because I'm a broke college student and it's a really nice affordable way to get around," she said. "I've waited with friends while they waited half an hour for one to show up."

Junior Richard De Los Santos Abreu, who lives off campus and uses the Blue Jay Shuttle regularly, has also noted long waiting times, especially on weekends.

Although he has not yet used a Lyft vehicle as part of the Night Rides program, he is optimistic that the partnership will be a success.

"The University truly cares and is listening to student concerns by providing this system," he said.

Although junior Sophia Song uses Blue Jay Shuttles regularly, she said she rarely has a problem with long wait times, even before the partnership was implemented.

"Most people that I've

talked to who have used the Blue Jay Shuttle have never had a problem," she said.

Song said she is pleased with the partnership so far.

"Since they've announced it, [I've] only used a Lyft once... but it really adds another layer

**"The University truly cares and is listening to student concerns by providing this system."**

— RICHARD DE LOS SANTOS ABREU, JUNIOR

feedback on their experiences with Lyft vehicles.

"After two weekends — we used it the weekend before classes and we used it this weekend — what's the word on the street?" he said. "Are people happy, is it a useful tool?"

While other universities have partnerships with Lyft, Smith said that they mostly consist of promo codes and discounts for specific rides.

"The program that we're running is unique and is one that may set the stage for others to follow," he said. "Lyft tells us [Hopkins] is unique, and our own research has led us to believe that it's a first of its kind."

## Students curate exhibit on black self-portraits



COURTESY OF KATY WILNER

Postcards at Brody offer insight into life for African Americans in the 1930s.

By KATY WILNER  
Staff Writer

Brody Learning Commons is currently hosting a new visual exhibit titled *American Selfie*, which will be on display until April 6. The exhibit was created by senior Monika Borkovic and junior Lorna Henson as a part of their work for a Museums and Society class.

Located on B-level of Brody, the exhibit displays dozens of selfie-style photo postcards of black Americans from the 20th century. Borkovic and Henson collaborated with the Sheridan Libraries' African American Real Photo Postcard Collection for physical copies of these photographs.

The students took a class last spring designed to look into special collection archives and browsed through thousands of postcards before selecting the ones displayed for the public.

This is the first exhibit for the collection and will

coincide with a visit from Deborah Willis, the chair of the Department of Photography and Imaging at the Tisch School of the Arts. Willis gave a talk on Feb. 7 about the photographic portraits and their relation to race and gender.

"You don't hear a lot of talk about how other races and genders are portrayed in museums, and you never really think about it," Henson said. "I wanted to take this class because I wanted to think about something that wasn't on my radar before."

Henson said that this project seemed to turn history on its head because it displaced generalized stereotypes about what life was like for black Americans in the 1930s.

"We were taught that African Americans, as a whole, were sharecroppers or very poor factory workers," Henson said. "The photos show that they were their own human beings. The photos take away this mass gen-

eralization and gives [the individuals in the photos] their narratives back."

Borkovic and Henson wanted to take the information they learned in class and make it accessible to anyone who visits Brody.

Henson said that they asked themselves how they could make campus a more inclusive environment through gender and race portrayal in museums.

The class combed through approximately a thousand photos from the Hopkins archives. Borkovic said that she and Henson were automatically drawn to this theme of postcards while browsing the collection.

Borkovic wanted to design an exhibit that highlighted the physical properties of the postcards so that students could admire them in the way they were originally designed.

"The postcards are very nice to look at," she said. "We wanted a way to showcase as many as possible."

Because she and Henson found so many real photo postcards that followed this theme they wanted to display, the solution was to have a monitor behind the physical postcards, playing a slideshow of images they found in the collection.

"There isn't a whole lot of space on campus where we could showcase a thousand postcards," Borkovic said.

The exhibit flow is designed so that students can

walk around and see the real photo postcards up close, as well as read about the history of the collection.

"Each picture is cool and unique in some right," Henson said. "[The design] was very crude in its infancy, but all the kinks worked out. I am very proud."

The exhibit begins with a brief history of this popularized style of postcard. In 1903, Kodak produced an easily accessible camera, and many people took to sending their loved ones images of themselves. The photographs vary in content: Some are very staged; some are graduation photos; and some are of people simply relaxing.

Many of the postcards do not identify their subjects, but the exhibit emphasizes that the true beauty of the artifacts are the images themselves. Gabrielle Dean, a librarian and the William Kurrelmeyer Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts, believes that the photos are reminiscent of photography today.

"Even the images that are a little more formal, you can see people being themselves," Dean said.

Henson agreed that even staged photos came off as authentic.

"When I think of the modern day selfie, I think of taking a photo of myself and showing people what I want them to see," Henson said. "In these photos, we essentially get just that."



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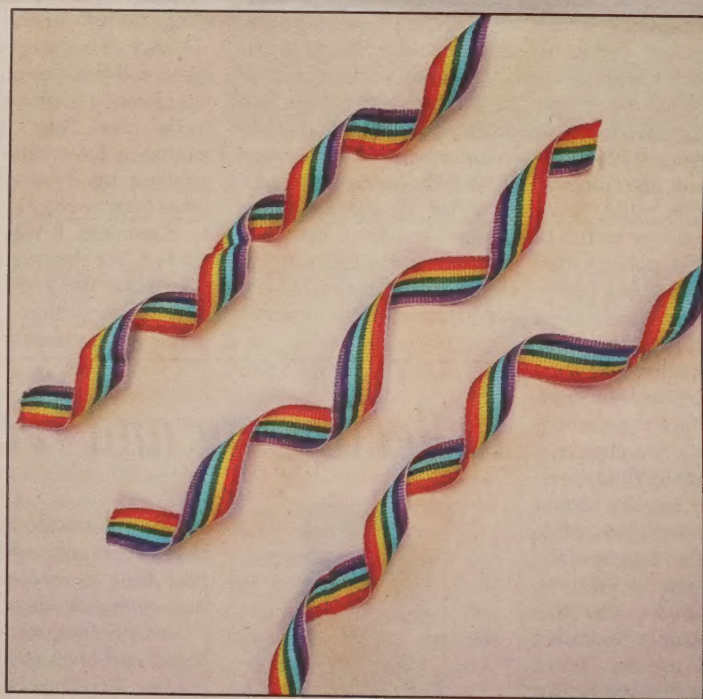
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## VOICES

Hopkins is a diverse university, where an incredible mix of cultures, academic interests and personalities coexist and thrive...

# Go ahead, go greek, but stop going on Greekrank



**Carmen Schafer**  
*In my humble opinion*

At Hopkins, people are not defined socially by their Greek affiliation. That's what prospective students are told when they are just getting to know Hopkins. However, for freshmen drunk off an entire semester of *Greekrank* and hearsay — and not actual information from real-life sorority members — the opposite is true.

At Hopkins, according to some freshman girls who have been here for a grand total of one semester, people absolutely are defined by their Greek affiliation, not only socially but also in all the other ways a person can be defined. For them, bid day is the college equivalent of Judgment Day: Some will be rewarded with social heaven, while others will be sentenced to seven semesters (equal to one eternity) in social hell.

During recruitment, you spend a lot of time waiting in line. For this reason, I'd advise against heels. For this same reason, I'd also advise against standing next to anyone who has had a little too much *Greekrank* to drink. As a natural consequence of having spring rush, very few potential new members (PNMs) go into formal recruitment with an open mind. Some PNMs' minds are so full of preconceived notions that they cannot afford to absorb any new information that could possibly make them think otherwise.

On the first day of recruitment, after visiting a whopping total of one chapter, I was exhausted. While standing in line for the second chapter, I mumbled something about my fatigue to the girl next to me. "Good thing it doesn't matter after this one," she kindly reminded me. I said nothing, but I should have thanked her for reminding me, because if she hadn't, I might have made a futile effort to continue being a decent, friendly person at the next three chapters.

Not only did she kindly remind me, but she also spent the next 1.5 rounds of recruitment generously advising others. In all my secular life, I'd say she's the closest I've ever had to a priest, for she seemed to know exactly which roads led to "heaven" and which roads condemned one to "hell."

Mediocre biblical jokes aside, that girl exemplified the superficial attitude that many girls have going into rush: Being in a sorority is only worth something if you're in the *right* sorority. As a result of this shallow fixation, rushing brings out the cutthroat attitude that Hopkins is known for. It really does feel like an inane competition.

More specifically, it feels like an episode of *The Bachelor*. Contestants put their

best feet forward and dress to impress. Even though they're told to be themselves, they're convinced that they must act a certain way in order to be wanted. And just like in the hit ABC reality TV show, they're not here for all the right reasons, and they're not here to make friends.

With this in mind, contestants are allocated a few short conversations to prove that they are charming, desirable, funny, smart and most importantly, deserving of love. If they can't prove that they possess all of these qualities, they "go to hell." Or they don't receive a rose. One of the two.

Unfortunately, there really isn't a reliable way for chapters to get to know over 200 PNMs in three days. Likewise, there really isn't a reliable way for PNMs to get to know over 600 sorority women in three days. Therefore, PNMs rely on a semester's worth of preconceived notions to determine where they "truly belong," rather than using their very own judgment to form their very own opinions.

Maybe it's presumptuous of me to say that they're wrong, but on behalf of the over 600 proud sorority women at Hopkins, and for the sake of anyone who felt they had a reason to be anything less than euphoric on bid day, I hope I'm right.

During recruitment, you'll spend a lot of time waiting in line. This aspect alone, as well as the process as a whole, is draining emotionally, mentally and physically. For this reason, I advise that you go into recruitment because you want to be in a sorority, not because you want to be in a specific one.

After all, the Bible says "Adam and Eve," not "validate your self-worth through a superficial hierarchy and anonymous online forums."



**Gillian Leichuk & Jacob Took**  
*The Gay Agenda*

We spent weeks trying to figure out what we would call this column. We tried out a lot of ideas. We still aren't sure that we're happy with this one. But eventually, we just had to put ourselves out there.

We floated *The Rainbow Connection*, *The G-Spot* and *Cuffed Jeans and Gay Queens*. Nothing felt right. For a while we just called it *The Gay Column*, and that worked as a stand-in, but we weren't happy with it.

Putting the column in print, there was a lot of pressure to come up with a title that felt right and represented what we wanted to say. We knew that after the first piece came out, there would be no going back.

That's sort of how it felt when we came out.

Of course, everyone has different experiences coming out. Some of us tried different labels like ice cream samples at The Charmery. Some are good, but they're not what we're feeling that day. Others are icky (looking at you, sherbert). But then you find that one perfect flavor, and everything falls into place (in a waffle cone).

Gillian likes sherbert, so she's mad that I wrote that. But I'm not a huge fan.

The label "gay" floated around a lot when I was growing up. I was teased sometimes by older kids and by classmates. It was never too bad, but they would say things like "don't be so gay" all the fucking time.

I can remember talking to my mom about it one time, and she just asked, "Well, are you gay?" And I insisted that no, I wasn't. I was probably seven.

The question is not whether I lied about my sexuality as a seven year old. The question is: Why was I asked about my sexuality as a seven year old? Why was there already an expectation to pick a label?

In sophomore year of high school when I had my first boyfriend, I was still apprehensive of the label. I spent two years wrestling with the idea after I had my first kiss with a boy in the eighth grade, and I wasn't ready for "gay" yet, so I told my mom that I liked girls and boys.

Let's be clear: Bisexuality is valid, and bisexual people should not be pressured to "pick a side." It's a common label people use when they're still figuring things out because it feels safer, but it didn't take me long to embrace gay.

Of course, that has changed somewhat over time. Meeting people with various gender identities and expressions in college made me reconsider my sexuality. In some settings, I still identify strongly with gay, but in others I prefer queer. It feels connected to a larger community, something I wasn't familiar with until I left high school.

Queer is a nice word to use, because you can say inclusive things like "the queer community." It connects LGBTQ people to an important history. Best of all, straight people are actually legally not allowed to use the word (you can arrest them if they do).

I feel comfortable with the labels gay and queer. They're good flavors, like strawberry cheesecake or Maryland Mud. Most importantly, I embraced them on my own terms; I wasn't pressured into them. Bisexual tasted al-

right at the time, but it wasn't for me. Maybe some people like sherbert. I won't judge.

It genuinely confuses me that Jacob doesn't like sherbert, but I guess I have an obligation to respect his ice cream preferences (even if he's wrong), because the queer community is about support and respect. We learn from one another, and we teach each other new things everyday, because sometimes it's not clear from a name like Saturday Morning Cartoons what's in the ice cream.

When I went to the Baltimore Women's March this year, my friends and I ended up at the rally behind a small cluster of older women. One of the speakers used the phrase "LGBTQIA," and the women in front of me were trying to figure out what the A stood for.

I jumped in with "asexual." They thanked me and joked about how, as older lesbians, they rely on the younger generation to keep them up to date with the terminology in the community. One of them asked me what labels I use.

"I use gay or lesbian," I said, "but I think I'm most comfortable with queer."

This is not because I don't like gay or lesbian or feel like they don't fit me. I think it's just because queer is more inclusive. It stretches beyond gay and lesbian and covers bisexual, pansexual and asexual. It's a larger um-

brella, and it keeps me safe from the rain. In this metaphor, rain is commitment to any label, because coming out is hard and scary, and I shouldn't (and don't) feel married to any one identity.

My labels also change with environment and circumstance. I prefer queer with strangers or in an academic setting — like at the Women's March, in this article or when I drop the phrase "as a queer woman" before shutting down a straight guy in a gender studies class.

But I use gay with my friends more, because it's short, it's sweet, it's much easier to elongate and yell across the room. I'm gay, the color green is gay culture, this column is gay. I label myself and things as gay, and that's more about having fun and feeling comfortable with myself and my identity. It's about reclaiming a word that was an insult when I was in middle school. It's about saying it enough that it doesn't feel like something strange or other.

Finding a label is hard, and I still haven't found the perfect one. Maybe I never will, but that's okay. I like too many ice cream flavors to stick to one.

Maybe *The Gay Agenda* doesn't cover everything we want to talk about in this column, but that's okay. Today, it fits. It's funny, it rolls off the tongue, it's eye-catching and we like it. And that's the most important thing.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

For Took and Leichuk, picking a label is akin to picking an ice cream flavor.

## Reflecting on and recovering from my friend's recent suicide



**Alizay Jalisi**  
*Mental Health Matters*

A month ago, I woke up to the worst text I had ever received in my life. It was a suicide note from a close friend. A few hours later, when another friend and I found him, it was far too late.

The days immediately following my friend's death were remarkably tough. As someone living with depression and anxiety, getting out of bed everyday is a challenge anyway, but this event made it almost impossible. I didn't shower for days. I barely ate or drank. Going out of the house and meeting up with people I knew well made me nervous, even though I am an extrovert.

I would frequently be late to things, because I was throwing up out of anxiety.

Nothing interested me. I have "depressive episodes" from time to time — a period of a few days when I consistently have a low mood and level of motivation — but this one was deep. I was not sure how I was going to crawl out of it.

A few weeks later, I'm at a stage of grieving in which I can reflect. I try to console myself with the idea that my friend ultimately made his decision to find liberation and peace from this world, but that does not mean he is no longer with me. Even so, there is something irreversibly jarring about his death — the shock always remains fresh even though the reality is final and unchangeable.

I wake up everyday having to remind myself that my friend is never coming back. There are no cheery "Morning!" texts from him to respond to. There are no more sassy comebacks from him at which to roll my eyes. There is no one to blow my nose and cry with while eating Indian food. There are no more late-night talks with him about whether or not life has any meaning.

Beyond the loneliness I feel, there is also guilt. I al-

ways wish I could have talked to him a little bit longer on each phone call. I could have spent a few more hours with him whenever we hung out. I could have paid better attention to warning signs.

I could and should have done more to help, especially as someone who has experienced many of his symptoms myself.

But I also think that my guilt shouldn't overpower my recognition of the challenges that he faced and the fact that mental illness affects everyone differently, so let me come right out and say it: My friend was battling C-PTSD (Complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder).

C-PTSD differs from PTSD in that it is a result of chronic or repeated trauma, and symptoms can include change in self-perception (sense of helplessness, guilt, isolation from other humans), persistent paranoia, dissociative episodes, nightmares or other forms of re-

living the traumatic events and a high risk of suicide.

These are all symptoms that my friend struggled with in his everyday life, but as he often said, he was more than his C-PTSD. Let me tell you about some of the things I admired about my friend.

My friend was empathetic, brave and strong. He often talked about how he tried to live on after experiencing sexual assault in the hope that others might be able

to relate, feel less alone and find the hope that he felt he ultimately could not find.

And indeed, he did do his best to live on. He had a full life as a student at Hopkins, and after graduating last spring, he kept seeking out and pursuing new learning experiences and friends which, to me, was nothing short of incredible.

My friend had a vision for himself. Last year, while on a medical service trip, he texted me to tell me that he had removed a

goiter the size of a heart!

He added excitedly that he also got to scrub up, make incisions and apply stitches, and that he hoped to do surgeries like this on his own someday. When he got back to Baltimore, I never got tired of hearing the story again and again.

My friend had a limitless capacity for love. He loved each of his friends so wholly, unapologetically and fervently for who they were. He was also generous with his time, energy and words.

He would rush to comfort me anytime I was sad, upset or stressed, or to cheer me on anytime I wanted to celebrate a success ranging from "I got out of bed today and went to class" to "I got an interview at my top choice med school!"

His heart was just so open; it surprised me sometimes so much that I didn't know how to respond. It is with deep regret that I admit I was too afraid to say "I love you" back to him in his lifetime.

So, here I am saying it (far too late, but I'm hoping you are reading this, my dear) — I love you too, forever and always.

**I wake up everyday having to remind myself that my friend is never coming back.**

## VOICES

Here is the section where you can publish your unique thoughts, ideas and perspectives on life at Hopkins and beyond.

## A couple of little known facts about the Olympics



Ariella Shua  
*Internet Expeditions*

With the Super Bowl over (and me feeling like the only person on campus upset about the Pats losing), it may feel like time to forget about the lovely distraction that sports provide from more pressing issues. Fortunately, that isn't the case this year. The 2018 Olympic Winter Games, hosted in PyeongChang, South Korea, begin in only a few days.

The Olympics may be the one competition that students from nearly all walks of life can feel excited about.

With so many countries represented, everyone has someone to root for, or at least someone to root against. But it's strange to realize that, although the

**Although the Olympics occur every two years, most of us have no idea why the event started.**

Olympics occur every two years, most of us have no idea how or why the event started.

Here are the questions and answers — helpfully provided by the internet — that I found more pressing than the questions my professors had assigned this week:

### Why did the Winter Olympics begin?

As most people know, the modern-day Olympic Games were styled in the same vein as the ancient Olympics, which occurred in Greece from roughly 8th century BC to 4th century AD.

The Olympics of today were reinstated in 1896 and consisted entirely of events that now are classified as being part of the Summer Games, such as gymnastics and swimming. For several Games, the only sports included were ones that could be played in the summer. But in 1908, a figure skating event was added to the list. Because the Games were taking place in London that year, competing on ice didn't make sense in August. As a solution, figure skating took place in October, weeks after the other events had concluded.

The idea of including a separate set of Games for winter sports was brought up several times before it finally became a reality in 1925. By this point, hockey had been added to the sports roster as well, and it just made sense to separate the events. The same country would host both the Winter and Summer Games during the same year, until 1994, when Lillehammer, Norway hosted the Winter Games exclusively. The tradition of having Summer and Winter Games in different countries, switching off every two years, has

continued since then.

### Have any teams never won medals?

As of the 2016 Rio Summer Olympics, 71 National Olympic Committees, each for a different represented group (usually countries), have yet to receive a medal. An additional six previous National Olympic Committees, representing nations which no longer compete (such as the Republic of China and North and South Yemen) have also never won medals. The Refugee Olympic Team, consisting of U.N.-verified refugees, was formed in 2016 and competed at the Rio Olympics. They have yet to win a medal as well.

### Which countries have won the most medals?

Depends on which Olympics. The National Olympic Committee with the most Summer Olympic medals is the United States, with a total of 2,522 medals over 27 Games. The Committee with the most Winter Olympic medals is Norway, with 329 over 22 Games.

Interestingly, in the Summer Olympic medal rankings, two of the top 10 Committees with most medals are no longer represented in the Games. Both the Soviet Union, in second place, and East Germany, in ninth place, are classified as "past nations." The Soviet Union has not competed since 1988, yet it still has over 150 more medals than constant competitor Great Britain, with 1,010.

### What are the strangest discontinued events?

For some reason, the list of bizarre Olympic events is quite lengthy. Most were only around for a few Games before being discontinued. Some of these competitions, such as golf and rugby for the Summer Games, have recently returned in some form.

But there are several events that likely won't be reinstated anytime soon. Among the highlights are winter pentathlon (a combination event with cross-country skiing, shooting, downhill skiing, fencing and horseback riding) and ski ballet (think ballet and imagine doing it while racing down a hill on skis). Personally, I would like to bring back dog sled racing, which was included in only two Games, most recently in 1952.

The Summer Games also have an array of unusual events and sports that have been discontinued over the years. Some of these, such as solo synchronized swimming (watch a video and you will not be disappointed) and tug-of-war (apparently actual adults used to play this game) would be quite entertaining if brought back today. Others, such as the live pigeon shooting event from the 1900 Games, may not have aged quite as well.



Bessie Liu  
*WriteMe*

I was probably about five or six when I first learned that my parents were considered to be "middle aged." Naturally, I started preparing for their deaths. I vividly remember storing away palm-sized pictures of my mom and dad, faintly reminiscent of yearbook photos, in a jewelry box. I would sometimes take them out and, with a real sense of urgency, try to memorize my parents' faces.

Back then, I only thought about death in terms of its physical aftermath. The photos were a representation of my parents. After they go, I thought my memories of their faces would be all I needed to keep them with me. This was a fairly practical way to confront the faint beginnings of my understanding of mortality.

Throughout the drama of elementary and middle school, my family life remained a constant. I didn't think much about my relationship with my parents for a while. But now, as someone who hasn't yet experienced death first hand, I'm scared of what's coming and of how my family and I will meet it.

I remember a conversation I once had with my mom. She freaked out when I put a white hair tie around my wrist. She told me that people wear white to funerals in China and that I should never use that hair tie. Another time, my dad

earnestly pointed out to me that the number 14 is considered unlucky, because if you say it out loud in Chinese, "four" sounds like the word for death. I wonder if he did anything special or prayed extra hard when my sister and I turned 14. Most likely because we are superstitious people who don't want to trigger tragedies, my parents and I have never really talked about death or mortality. Over time, it's become easier to just avoid the topic altogether.

My first real encounter with death happened during my junior year of high school, when one of our guinea pigs died. It started when I noticed him sitting with his spine unnaturally arched. His eyes dimmed. He shrunk quickly. I remember hearing his breath rattle inside his small body as I begged my parents to take him to the vet, despite their insistence that he would be okay. Two days later, my mom brought him home from the vet, wrapped in a purple blanket, lying stiff inside a box. She tried to explain to me gently why they chose to euthanize him. It was one of two times I've ever seen her cry.

Sometimes it takes me a while to remember that neither of my parents have (knock on wood) had to deal with the loss of their parents yet — which is incredibly lucky and also unsettling. It's uneasy to think of just how much can transpire in the months between family reunions and just how unprepared we are to face our own mortality. I guess what I really want to say is that when the time comes, I'm afraid I won't know what to do to help my parents through their grief: how to act as my mom did when our guinea pig was put to sleep,

how to help lessen the pain for others when you yourself are struggling to deal with it.

Once, my sister and I watched through dust-filmed windows as our dad argued with another driver about how we were late for a doctor's appointment so could he please let this go and stop accusing us of a hit-and-run when there wasn't even any appreciable damage. I was truly afraid that the other driver, who I still resent to this day, for what it's worth, might kill him.

Once on an overnight flight that had been delayed for half a day, my mom offered me her lap so I could sleep lying down. Inexplicably, I thought as I curled up to fit across the seats about how childish this felt and about how one day I would not be able to touch her again. Memorizing photos seemed so inadequate then.

I always struggle to write about my feelings toward my family. Yet, I think it's all I ever write about now. Every piece of writing, whether a poem or an attempt at fiction, is a mirror that I gaze into again and again, because I can never seem to match my emotions with my words. To me, love is complicated by fear. I'm always going to end up feeling like I could have done

more, said more, made my feelings clearer while there was still time. I've only taken the easy way out so far by trying to write down what I've never been able to say to my loved ones.

On the morning of my 18th birthday, a few weeks before moving to Baltimore, my parents each wrote me a card (of course, there was also my sister who jokingly congratulated me for having such a cool sibling but also thanked me for supporting her all these years). My parents both expressed how proud they were of me, of all I've accomplished and of the fact that I've become all these different adjectives. My dad, in particular, painstakingly engraved a list of advice in 10-point font that filled his entire card, with bits of his broken English poking through. They both told me they'd never stop nagging me or offering advice because they love me.

In my family, we don't typically have deeply personal or emotional discussions. It's easier not to. So if I want to be able to tell my parents and sister I love them without feeling awkward or afraid, maybe I have to let my fear guide me. I really have procrastinated long enough.



COURTESY OF BESSIE LIU

Liu's household often avoided directly talking about death and mortality.

## Commercials were the real winners of the Super Bowl



Amelia Isaacs  
*From Across the Pond*

I can think of three reasons why people not from America might want to watch the Super Bowl. First is an actual like for American football and a desire to watch the game. In my humble opinion, that's the least compelling reason to watch, but what do I know?

Second is because of the Halftime Show. Third is for a sliver of insight into American culture and for the atmosphere and the experience of watching something so important to many Americans.

Oh and of course for Americans, there's a fourth reason: the commercials.

To me, the idea that this legitimately counts as a reason why people enjoy watching a sporting event is unfathomable. It is something that, even now having watched it, I still don't really understand and probably never will. The idea that NBC charged just over \$5 million for every 30 seconds (30 seconds!) of advertising time is absolutely

insane. All that being said, I had high expectations for these commercials. While some definitely lived up to the hype, most of them just confused me more than anything else — even with the help and explanations of some of my friends (special shoutout to room 605A for putting up with my many, many questions).

So in an effort to somehow discuss what seemed like a lot of commercials to me, I am going to just briefly discuss the winners of weirdly specific categories that I have made up.

### Starting with the losers:

Most bizarre use of political activism: Ram's "Built to Serve"

Just... why? Who thought that this advert was a good idea? Regardless of all the issues with the fact that they are advertising trucks with a political protest, why did they use a speech which later went on to warn about deceptive tactics used by advertisers to get people to think a certain way? Both things happening on the same date is not enough of a connection to warrant the use of that voiceover.

Most uncomfortable: Hyundai - "Hope Detector"

As an international student, I'm not a massive fan of American security (even though it was for the Super

Bowl, it looked exactly like airport security), and it just generally makes me nervous and uncomfortable. While I think what Hyundai is doing to fund research for is great, it seems to also be shaming everyone who doesn't drive a Hyundai for not helping children with cancer. In short, this advert made me feel uncomfortable and guilty — and I can't even drive.

### Now onto my winners:

The most meta representation of Super Bowl ads: "It's a Tide Ad."

The advert mimicked the stereotypical ad of almost every genre (from diamonds to beer to cars) and pretty much showed a summary of every ad that I expected to see in a 60 second advert. The advert very cleverly did kind of turn every advert into a Tide advert because every time another advert came up with someone in clean clothes, I was just waiting to see if it would turn out to be another Tide ad. And as an added bonus, no tide pods were eaten or shown in the advert, so that's a win in my book.

Best use of celebrity cameos: Amazon's "Did Alexa Lose Her Voice?"

After Alexa lost her voice (freshman plague?), a handful of celebrities

took her place. Of course, I couldn't mention this advert without discussing British icon (!) Gordon Ramsay berating a man for asking how to make a grilled cheese because I mean, come on, "Its name is the recipe!"

However, Cardi B definitely takes first place in the advert because of her dedication to the role. "How far is Mars? How am I supposed to know? I've never been there," she says. When another man asks to play country music, she plays "Bodak Yellow." It's perfect, and if I ever get a device with Alexa, I expect these to all be voice setting options.

Honorable "Don't put Baby in the corner" mention: The NFL commercial

Football players performing the iconic *Dirty Dancing* dance sequence — amazing.

And last but certainly not least: My favorite commercial of the night goes to... drumroll please... PepsiCo's "Doritos Blaze vs Mountain Dew Ice: Battle"

A lip-sync rap battle between Game of Thrones star Peter Dinklage and the one and only voice of God, Morgan Freeman, with a cameo from Missy Elliot herself: This is what I expected from the Super Bowl, and I was not disappointed.

# the johns hopkins NEWS-LETTER

## Editorials

### What we talked about this week

In this week's editorials, we would like to highlight two stories that we believe are not discussed on our campus as much as they should be. Both stories are grounded in historically rooted problems that carry very real implications today. Even though these stories may not always be in the headlines that we read, we hope that we can — at the very least — be aware of them and perhaps, do something about them.

—The Editorial Board

#### On the BPD's failures

Baltimore Ceasefire, a local grassroots organization dedicated to reducing gun violence, organized its third 72-hour event last weekend. Through advocacy and rallies, these events are meant to prevent any homicides from occurring in Baltimore during the designated three-day period, and last week's Ceasefire was the first one to achieve that goal.

Since the death of Freddie Gray in April 2015, the number of homicides in Baltimore has spiked. Last year marked the highest annual per-capita murder rate in the city's history, with 343 lives lost. Meanwhile, the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) struggles to address the spike as Commissioner Darryl De Sousa, the third Police Commissioner in three years, begins his tenure.

De Sousa enters this job following disappointing performances from his predecessors. In July 2015, former Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake fired then Police Commissioner Anthony Batts in response to the rising homicide rate immediately following Gray's death. Deputy Commissioner Kevin Davis was then promoted to commissioner. Crime and homicide in Baltimore since his appointment only increased. Current Mayor Catherine Pugh fired Davis last month and replaced him with then-deputy-commissioner Darryl De Sousa.

Unlike Batts and Davis, De Sousa rose through the ranks of the Department. He is a 30-year veteran of the force and a Baltimore resident. However, he is also inheriting a department with many internal issues. Today

we highlight these problems through the incoming revelations from the Gun Trace Task Force scandal.

The BPD's Gun Trace Task Force (GTTF) was formed in 2007 as an elite unit dedicated to reducing the number of guns on Baltimore streets. Its members were given an unconventional degree of freedom to essentially use any methods necessary to combat gun violence.

In March 2017, seven GTTF officers were indicted in a racketeering conspiracy. They were accused of using their power as members of the BPD to steal money from drug dealers and Baltimore citizens. They were accused of confiscating guns and drugs that they were meant to keep off the street. Instead they resold them and pocketed the profits. The lead federal prosecutor against the GTTF said, "They were, simply put, both cops and robbers at the same time."

The officers made six-figure salaries by logging overtime hours when they were on vacation or engaging in their illicit activities.

This story grows especially complicated with the fatal shooting of Detective Sean Suiter on Nov. 15, 2017 in the Harlem Park neighborhood. After discovering his body, the BPD put the entire neighborhood on lockdown as they searched for the murderer. Residents needed identification to get in or out of their own homes. They were searched, and they were banned from parts of their own neighborhood. The BPD's occupation lasted for a week after Suiter's death.

As Suiter's killer has yet to

be found, people have speculated that his death is tied to his role as a witness in the GTTF trials. It has been over two months, and Baltimore still has no answers.

The mere existence of this speculation undermines Baltimore's faith in the BPD to conduct business ethically and keep citizens safe.

Fellow members of the BPD were either unaware of the GTTF's actions or willfully ignored them, making it very difficult for the police as a whole to begin regaining the City's trust. This trust continues to erode as more news about the BPD surfaces.

According to *The Baltimore Sun*, BPD Training Academy Head of Legal Instruction Sgt. Josh Rosenblatt expressed concerns about recruits failing to understand citizens' basic constitutional rights. This is particularly concerning, considering that a 2015 Department of Justice report following the Baltimore Uprising detailed how there was an alarming rate of unconstitutional and racist police practices.

Initiatives like Baltimore Ceasefire are critical in addressing the ways in which the BPD has failed. As a community-based initiative, Ceasefire is working to mobilize residents to organize concerted efforts to promote our City's safety and wellbeing.

We are Hopkins students, but we are part of Baltimore, too. The workings of the BPD tend not to directly affect us, and it's very easy for us to remain detached. But as Baltimore residents, even for only four years, the last thing Hopkins students should be is apathetic and uninformed.

#### On the neglect of Puerto Rico

Last September, Hurricane Maria wreaked havoc on the island of Puerto Rico. Much of the island was destroyed, and people, including families of Hopkins students, went without power for months. Eighty percent of the island's crop value disappeared. Most of its water was undrinkable. Between September and November, over 200,000 people left the territory to come to the continental United States.

The hurricane hit months ago, but for many residents, the situation is still dire. A little less than half of the island remains without electricity. Some areas still don't have access to clean water. Much of the structural damage to houses and public works remains unrepaired. Puerto Rican Hopkins students report going home, months after disaster struck, to continued debris, destruction and darkness.

However, this isn't just about the hurricane. Puerto Rico has been struggling with issues that Maria only exacerbates. The island is about \$70 billion in debt, with a poverty rate of over 45 percent. Over the last several years, more

than 150 schools have closed, tax rates have skyrocketed and thousands of people have left for the mainland. The United States government has shown less than adequate support for its territory and more importantly, its citizens.

The island and the mainland government have had a tense relationship for years. Because Puerto Rico is a territory, laws that apply to the continental states often contain loopholes that can cause significant damage to Puerto Rican wealth and infrastructure. In the 1970s, the government imposed a tax break that encouraged businesses to move to Puerto Rico instead of overseas.

The island's pharmaceutical industry boomed: Puerto Rico was much wealthier than it is today. However, Congress discontinued those tax breaks completely by 2006 in order to relieve tax cuts on the mainland. When the 2008 recession hit, the island lost half of its manufacturing jobs and plunged into debt. It hasn't been able to recover in the last 10 years.

Part of this problem stems from the idea that our gov-

ernment doesn't treat Puerto Rico and its citizens as true members of the United States. President Trump has glossed over the severity of the issue in the wake of similar hurricanes in Florida and Texas. He glossed over the fact that many people in Puerto Rico still lack electricity and running water and face even bigger systemic issues that the U.S. government has created instead of resolved.

Puerto Rico is not a foreign country. Its citizens are Americans and, as such, they should be given the same care and attention as those who live in Florida and Texas have received.

We encourage Hopkins students to continue monitoring conditions in Puerto Rico and supporting peers whose families are directly affected by the devastation. We cannot forget about Puerto Rico, even if the federal government seems to be moving in that direction. The government might not treat Puerto Ricans as citizens, but we can treat our friends and classmates from Puerto Rico with the dignity they deserve.

## LETTERS & OP-ED POLICY

*The News-Letter* encourages letters to the editor and op-eds. *The Johns Hopkins News-Letter* reserves the sole right to edit all op-ed pieces and/or letters to the editor for space, grammar, clarity, accuracy and style. This applies to the body of the submission as well as its headline. Upon submission, all op-eds and letters to the editor become property of *The News-Letter*. *The News-Letter* reserves the right to not publish any op-ed or letter to the editor for any reason, at the sole discretion of the Editors-in-Chief. Letters to the editor are limited to 400 words, must address content previously published in *The News-Letter*, and must include the author's name. Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for inclusion in that week's issue; they should be sent to [chiefs@jhnewsletter.com](mailto:chiefs@jhnewsletter.com) (with "Letter to the editor" in the subject line) or the mailing address below. To write an op-ed, contact [opinions@jhnewsletter.com](mailto:opinions@jhnewsletter.com). Op-eds are not limited in their length except as available space may dictate. All submissions may be published online as well as in the paper, and no anonymous submissions will be accepted.

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## The News-Letter

*The Gatehouse*  
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# OPINIONS

*With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.*

## Be aware of where your drugs come from

By EMELINE ARMITAGE

There's a pretty good chance that you, the Hopkins student reading this article, consumes drugs on the weekend. Or if not you, your friend or your roommate and certainly your classmates.

Statistically, a good chunk of Hopkins students consume drugs on a regular basis. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, approximately five percent of college students use cocaine, and according to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), 38 percent of college students used marijuana in the last year (though if I had to guess I would say these numbers might be higher for Hopkins based on socioeconomic status).

Americans have been exposed to the drug war in Latin America through media such as the television shows *Breaking Bad* and *Narcos*. But rarely do we think about the origins of the drugs that are consumed on our very campus. It is easy to turn a blind eye to the violence that has erupted south of the border as a result of the drug war over the past few decades, but we should be forced to confront the blood and suffering produced as a result of American consumption.

A bag of weed or coke doesn't come with a "Made in Mexico" sticker, but we can trace where these drugs come from. Estimates vary widely, but studies from the Library of Congress and the RAND Corporation place foreign marijuana as constituting about 50 percent of the marijuana con-

sumed in the United States. According to the DEA, 92 percent of the cocaine seized in 2016 originated from Colombia.

The drug trade has decimated parts of Latin America. U.S.-led military operations such as Plan Colombia and the Mérida Initiative have destroyed people's farms and livelihoods. The influx of military equipment from U.S.-led drug war operations has contributed to escalating gang violence and the increased militarization of gangs.

U.S.-trained police have killed children and civilians in drug raids, most recently with the Temixco massacre in Cuernavaca. A bipartisan investigation revealed that DEA agents lied to Congress about a 2012 incident in which Honduran officers under the command of U.S. DEA agents fired at unarmed people, killing four civilians.

According to a report published in *The Nation*, the U.S. is funneling billions of dollars to Mexican police who are compromised by the Zetas, considered to be the most dangerous cartel in Mexico. U.S.-trained and funded Mexican police have been arrested in connection to mass graves of migrants found in Matamoros.

The Mérida Initiative, a joint security plan between the United States, Mexico and Central American countries, was signed into law in 2008, and Congress approved \$2.5 billion to Mexico for the drug war.

This money funded the deployment of 96,000 Mexican troops for President Felipe Calderón's drug war, during which 70,000 people were killed, and 26,000 people disappeared at the hands of se-

curity forces according to Human Rights Watch. Across Latin America, U.S.-led and funded operations airdrop dangerous chemicals on farms in an attempt to eradicate marijuana and coca crops. These operations destroy people's farms and livelihoods and enact terrible damage on the environment.

Most Hopkins students are at least aware of the existence of sweatshops to make our clothes or efforts like free trade coffee. However, rarely, if ever, have I heard discussions about the origins of the drugs Hopkins students use on the weekends, and I doubt that most Hopkins students are even aware of the violent origins of their weekend fun.

People shouldn't be shamed for doing drugs — it's a part of life. But as consumers we should be aware of the origins of our drugs and how our government's policies have wreaked havoc on the countries where the drugs are produced. Take a moment to think about where your drugs come from and the violence that brought them to our campus, just as we should think about how our clothes were made, our produce was picked and our electricity mined.

We should fight against imperialist policies like the Mérida Initiative that cause unimaginable harm across Latin America — think of it as an added political tax to your fun. Once we begin to acknowledge and challenge the origins of our consumption, we can start to fight for a more just world.

*Emeline Armitage is a senior International Studies, Latin American studies and Spanish major. She is from Cleveland, Ohio.*

## Hopkins cannot let PILOT become a casualty of cutbacks



FILE PHOTO

PILOT groups help students better understand their course material outside of class.

By JOHN HUGHES

As they returned to campus this January, students working as leaders in the PILOT program were greeted with an email informing them that the program would be making cutbacks, including some leaders not being assigned a session for the semester. This is terrible news.

PILOT is a program that provides free group tutoring sessions for large foundational classes like organic chemistry and physics. Students who previously did well in those classes lead the sessions and are paid by the University.

Unfortunately the great demand for this service during the fall semester — the first fall semester where the freshman class did not benefit from covered grades — caused the program to use more than half its budget for the semester, leading to cutbacks for the spring. On Thursday, Feb. 1, some headway was made, and the school budgeted some emergency money to fund a few more sessions. Still, it is unclear how much money the school allocated and whether it will be enough to meet demand for spring tutoring or even to employ all the leaders who were employed in the fall semester.

It is unacceptable that the University would allow such a vital program for the academic success of our students to hang in budgetary limbo, especially when they lean on that program as a rhetorical justification for their policy changes. In their email announcing the end of covered grades on May 6, 2016, Deans Wendland and Schlesinger wrote that PILOT was one of the "comprehensive and better coordinated academic support services and programs" that would facilitate "strong transition support" to a system without covered grades.

A "comprehensive" program must necessarily have the budget to accommodate all the demand it receives. When it cannot meet that demand, real students are left without that support structure. And without covered grades, they have one less safety net for when they go without academic support services.

Beyond that, the PILOT program is simply a very strong support service that ought to reach as many students as possible. PILOT is structured in such a way that it teaches much more than just the content of the classes involved. Leaders are trained to carefully support students in guiding themselves through content and exercises with their peers, teaching them the same skills of problem solving and group-work that will

allow them to better succeed in their upper-level classes and in their careers.

Even more advanced students benefit from participating in PILOT — they learn the same group-work skills often lacking in college graduates, as well as a deeper understanding of the material that can only be gained by explaining problems to others rather than flying through them.

PILOT is just as important to many of its leaders — it is eligible for federal work-study and represents an important opportunity for working-class students to make the money they need to survive, in a setting with a consistent schedule that doesn't take them out of the academic environment. PILOT was the first job I took while at Hopkins, and the money I made from it was a huge part of how I fed myself when I was no longer on a meal plan.

But if it was a more traditional job with non-academic work and unpredictable shifts, it would have almost certainly negatively impacted my studies. Rather, because I was able to lead sessions for Physics II, my time leading PILOT sessions has served to strengthen my understanding of concepts fundamental to my field of study.

I have many friends for whom PILOT is a similarly important job. Not all of them received assignments this semester. We cannot take the unexpected layoffs of student workers a week before their job was set to begin lightly.

Besides more quantifiable benefits, PILOT even helps with the isolating social culture at our school. We continue to be a university with neither a student center nor a college town, leaving freshman (and, rarely, sophomore) housing groups as the only major university-supported group socialization.

PILOT helps to bridge these social voids — almost every session I've led has had students from all four class years, working together on shared problems. It's an incredible way to bring together students who would otherwise never have interacted and provides one small opportunity for meeting new people in an environment that provides very few of them.

It's unclear how the University is handling the current budget shortfall, but one thing is clear: Going forward, the University must support the continuing growth of the PILOT program with a sufficient, flexible budget. It is unacceptable for a school with \$52,000 tuition and a \$3.3 billion endowment to allow academic support services to go underfunded.

*John Hughes is a senior BS/MS student in electrical engineering. He is from Baltimore, Md.*

## We must continue fighting for a two-state solution

By BENTLEY ADDISON

I first heard about the community of Susya this fall. I was horrified to learn about the ways in which the inhabitants of the village, by virtue of the circumstances of their birth, are forced to live with the constant fear that their homes could be taken away at any moment. Susya is a Palestinian village of about 350 people, located in Area C of the West Bank.

This means that the village is under full Israeli civil and military control. Over the past 30 years, the Israeli Civil Administration has levied demolition orders against Susya time and time again. The Civil Administration has also confiscated Susya's vital infrastructure, such as water cisterns and solar panels.

Action from the international community and various organizations, including J Street U, has helped lead to the successful postponement of several recent orders for the demolition of Susya. However, on Feb. 1, 2018, the Israeli Supreme Court ruled to allow the immediate demolitions of seven structures in Susya.

These demolitions would leave more than 40 residents homeless, half of whom are children. Because the demolitions were authorized to be carried out immediately, the community of Susya is, in essence, living in a state of limbo where they could be left homeless at any moment.

Threats to demolish Susya are a result of the Israeli settler movement's agenda to annex the West Bank and create a one-state "Greater Israel" in which Israel rules indef-

initely over the Palestinians. The Israeli far-right, via extremist settler organizations like Regavim, has steadfastly worked to undermine the two-state solution by advocating for demolitions of Palestinian communities. These demolitions allow nearby Israeli settlements to consolidate into "settlement blocs." These blocs are areas of the West Bank with several Israeli communities and no Palestinian presence.

Israeli security experts have repeatedly spoken out about the dangers of this phenomenon — known as creeping annexation — and the entrenchment of the occupation.

They are joined by rabbis, students and prominent U.S. senators who are all concerned that demolitions and annexation threaten Israel's future. In September 2017, when a prior decision about Susya's potential demolition was looming,

J Street U at Hopkins held a phone banking event and photo event where members of J Street U and the broader University community called the Israeli embassy to voice our stance against the demolition. We joined hundreds of other students across the country participating in a national day of action to demonstrate to leaders that students would not look away from these demolitions. Due to international pressure, the Israeli government postponed their decision on the demolition of Susya.

With Trump in office here and Netanyahu leading Israel's government, responsibility increasingly falls on the American Jewish community and members of Congress to stand with Susya. Already, Susya and other vulnerable Palestinian communities

have garnered support from various members of Congress. Representative Jan Schakowsky of the Illinois Ninth has released a statement condemning Susya's demolition order, and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Bernie Sanders, along with eight other senators, published a congressional letter against village demolitions in Susya and Khan al-Ahmar.

Leaders in the Jewish community have also acted. 315 rabbis signed a letter condemning village demolitions. We need more U.S. leaders to speak out boldly against demolitions in Susya and communities like it. These demolitions create an unsustainable reality of violence and oppression and threaten a two-state solution and long-term peace in the region.

We are calling on pro-Israel, pro-peace, pro-Palestinian, anti-occupation Americans to speak out in support of Susya. Many Hopkins students hope that our elected officials will speak out against the demolition order. Baltimore is home to important legislators, and they have the capacity to show Netanyahu and his government that demolitions are not acceptable.

They can emulate efforts like the Sanders-Feinstein statement against demolitions or the Price-Welch letter that called for restored funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA). We must do everything we can to stop the pattern of creeping annexation. Susya faces demolition at any moment. It's imperative that students, Jewish communal leaders and legislators act to ensure the survival of a two-state solution.

*Bentley Addison is a J Street U at JHU board member. He is a freshman biology and history double major from Franklin Township, N.J.*

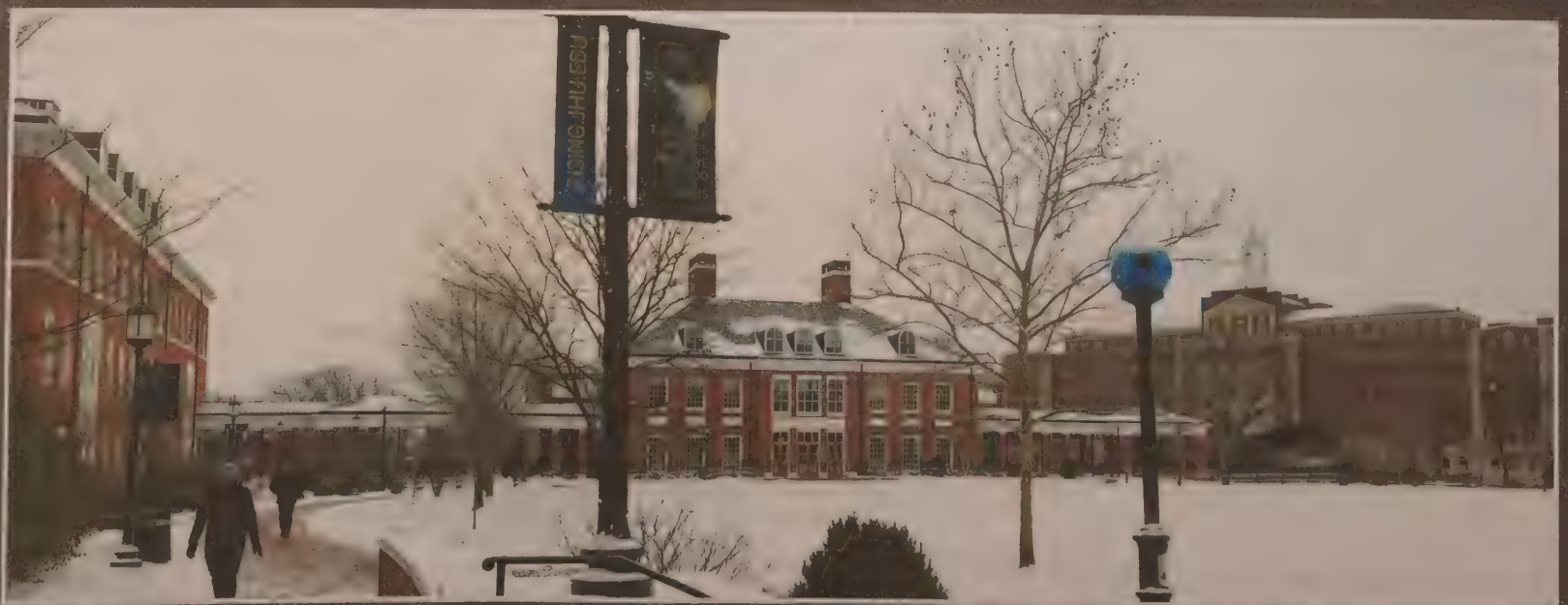
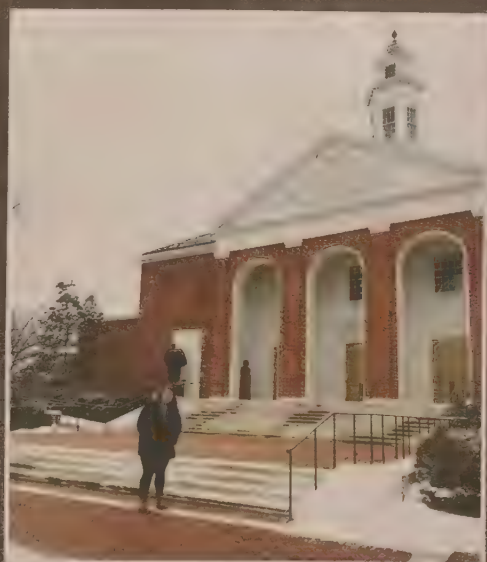
**We must do everything we can to stop the pattern of creeping annexation.**

## PHOTO ESSAY



# When the snow was still here

by Diva Parekh



# THE B SECTION

YOUR WEEKEND • ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • CARTOONS, ETC. • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY • SPORTS

FEBRUARY 8, 2018

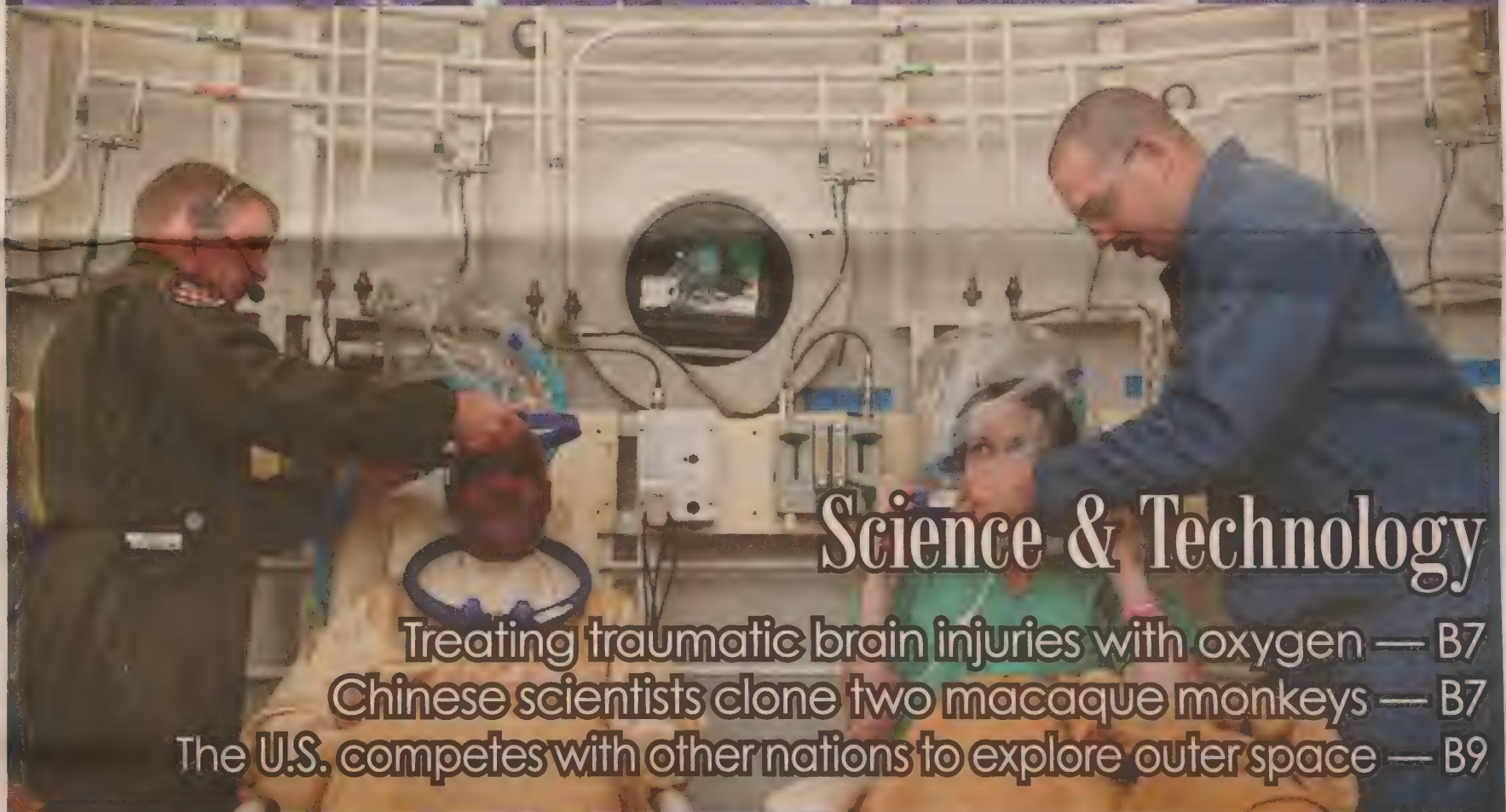


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# YOUR WEEKEND FEBRUARY 8 – 11

## Events in Baltimore this weekend

### Thursday

#### Writing Circle

##### The Baltimore Science Fiction Society

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Head over to Highlandtown to participate in this bimonthly writer's circle. Critique the work of others, or bring a six to eight page piece of your own. Many stories workshopped in the circle have gone on to be published. Free.

### Friday

#### I Heart City Life Happy Hour

##### Oliver Brewing Company

5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Kick off your weekend by stopping by this reoccurring happy hour in northeast Baltimore. The first 100 guests to register will receive a pint class designed by Baltimore's very own Annie Howe. Live entertainment provided by The Soul Magnets. \$10 donation.

#### Constellations & Crossroads

##### Arena Players, Inc.

8 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Come see the opening night of two back-to-back, musical performances: *Determination of Azimuth*, dedicated to the black female NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson and *The Battle of Blue Apple Crossing*, a fictionalized account of legendary guitarist Robert Johnson. Doors open at 7:30. \$20.

### Saturday

#### Elsa Fitzgerald: The Art of Lace

##### Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower

4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Stacy Stube, one of the Bromo Tower's resident artists, was inspired by the traditional Kebaya dress on the island of Bali to create an exhibit that showcases this historic fashion in detailed dresses. Light refreshments will be served. Free.

#### When \_\_\_\_ Met \_\_\_\_

##### Baltimore Improv Group

8 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Celebrate Valentine's Day early with this "improvised romantic comedy." The show is set in the style of classic Hollywood rom-coms, but the two stars will be audience volunteers. \$5.

### Sunday

#### 4th Annual Chili Cook Off

##### Barcocina

1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Not only do you get to sample chili from multiple chefs, but also enjoy discounted beer and cocktail specials to warm you up during this cold February. \$5.

## Pedaling my way through and with Charm City

By RENEE SCAVONE  
Your Weekend Editor

If you're about to read this article while cozy in your bed in Nine East, these next few paragraphs might not really be for you.

After four semesters of living in the dorms, when I moved farther into Charles Village junior year it felt like the commute to get anywhere became roughly 45 minutes, barring traffic.

It's a common Hopkins crisis. Other schools with rolling lawns and multiple undergraduate campuses demand knowledge of public transport, car ownership and, perhaps worst of all, the inability to just roll out of bed 20 minutes before class.

We, on the other hand, spend the first two years of school being utterly coddled by the smallness of the Hopkins campus.

As someone who lives on the 2900 block of Guilford (yes, where all the robberies are) I've had to deal with many friends refusing to come over simply because the walk is too long.

The moment I got a bike, however, all of that changed.

(Okay, anyone who lives in The Charles can start reading again.)

Biking is useful in Baltimore for a lot of reasons. We've all heard the city re-

ferred to as "Smalltimore" due to its small town feel, but after I got a bike I felt that on more than just a figurative level.

If I want to go to the Inner Harbor, all I need is 20 minutes and the blind courage necessary for dealing with Baltimore drivers. The Windup Space? Don't have to wait for a Blue Jay Shuttle. Towson Mall? I can get there in less time than it took to create any Migos song.

I recommend bike ownership for everyone, for many reasons, but perhaps the most important part of owning a bike in Baltimore is the monthly tradition of Bike Party.

Baltimore Bike Party was founded in 2012. It is exactly what it sounds like. On the last Friday of every month, hundreds of people take to the streets on their bikes.

This is a national phenomenon, with similar programs in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles.

However, Bike Party is more than just a ride. It's an experience.

There's a different theme every month, and participants are encouraged to dress up and play along. Some of my favorites from the past year include:

Pajamboree, a cozy ride that allowed for extra layering in the November chill.

Pirates vs. Ninjas, which had the added bo-



COURTESY OF HANNAH MELTON

Bike Party brings Baltimoreans from all over the city all through the city.

nus of creating needless, fake competition. (I was a pirate. Obviously.)

And Need for Tweed, where folks wore, you guessed it, tweed.

This month's theme is Dungeons and Dragons, inspired by the game's presence in Netflix's *Stranger Things*.

I cannot quite describe the emotions I had the first time I participated in a ride.

I remember riding down Saint Paul in Charles Village after classes had ended in May and seeing real, local Baltimoreans yelling at us from their windows. It made me feel like I was

real and local too.

To look behind me and in front of me and see an endless sea of people biking, yelling, and blasting music invoked a sense of camaraderie that I've otherwise only felt at concerts and protests.

The route changes each ride, but they all start out in Patterson Park. Afterwards, every Bike Party ends with a real party at a local space, which means that you get to discover yet another part of the city.

So don a silly costume, hop on a bike and pedal your way through Charm City. You may be in for the ride of a lifetime.

## The best kept secret for beating Charles Village chills

By DARIA  
RAMOS-IZQUIERDO  
For The News-Letter

As February is roaring into action with the first delayed opening of the year and consistently near-hurricane strength wind, Hopkins students everywhere are wondering how to beat the chill of another Baltimore winter.

During the week of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, when half of the student body had already returned to campus, I discovered a simple solution to the dilemma:

I drove over 18 hours with my sister, a graduate student at the University of Miami, down to Florida.

I am not sure how many people truly understand the layout of Miami, because I sure still don't. How does anyone live with street

numbers beyond 39?

But Miami isn't just South Beach; in fact, it is one of the most sprawling cities I have ever encountered.

The University of Miami is about 20 minutes from the beach or downtown, but that doesn't mean the campus isn't as upbeat and beautiful as the beaches.

Making it down to Miami the night before classes started was a bold move as we had slept for about three hours, but it was nothing that nights at MSE hadn't prepared me for.

For the next five nights, I slept on the futon of my sister's converted-garage studio (some of the most affordable housing you can find in Miami, because holy wow, there's a reason that there are so many Teslas and Porsches on the streets), and it was fun because it was like sharing a

room all over again.

Except the last time we shared a room we were four and seven, and we hated it.

We went to campus early on the first day of class so that we could eat lunch there.

I was highly offended to find out that, at other schools, campus dining is practically a high end food court, not just a buffet and a couple of made-to-order places.

No offense to Bamboo Cafe, but I would much prefer a Panda Express.

And, honestly, that's a pretty low bar.

Furthermore, I would prefer Cuban food. I mean, that may just be a personal thing, but I am pretty sure that Cuban food is objectively some of the best food in the world.

The entire city of Baltimore has a whopping total of one Cuban restaurant. Well guess what? Just within the University of Miami campus there are two places where you can get fast, authentic Cuban food. Step it up, Bon Appetit.

But despite all of the delicious food,

as I sat there diving into my pork, ham and swiss cheese sandwich (a Medianoche, for anyone who cares about the name), I realized that almost every single person passing by, restricted by a strict diet of kombucha and lettuce, looked like they didn't get to enjoy any of it.

Say what you will about the citizens of Baltimore: At least we know how to eat a damn sandwich.

However, I am not exaggerating when I say that not only was the campus entirely gorgeous, but approximately 95 percent of the students also looked like they could have been selling Calvin Klein or something.

I wondered to myself if people had to send in their headshots along with the Common App but then also remembered that they always have to be beach body ready seeing as it never drops below 72 degrees and their beach is an actual beach, not a patch of grass, on a hill, overlooking two dorm buildings and a hospital.

I could practically hear the giant fountain, in the middle of the mini lake overlooking the commons, whispering "transfer" to me with every slight breeze.

The offer was ever so tempting as I sipped my Jamba Juice and watched in awe as a D1 football player passed me by.

But here I am, in snowy, rainy, ice-covered Baltimore, and I am happy with that.



COURTESY OF RENEE SCAVONE

Here students react to the Blizzard of 2016 — sometimes it's just too much for all of us.

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Freshman rapper talks music, charity and life



COURTESY OF KRISTOFER MADU

On Feb. 3, Karter performed a set at the Torrent Lounge in Towson.

By **NIKITA SHTARKMAN**  
Staff Writer

You've seen him around. He may have zoomed past you on his electric scooter. You may have seen him in class wearing his trademark ski goggles. You may have even seen him on stage rapping. Kristofer Madu, aka Travis Karter, is that guy. A freshman International Studies major and an up-and-coming rapper, there is a lot more to him than many people know.

Kristofer Madu has a multilayered past. Born in Nashville, Tenn., Madu was surrounded by a society with which he had trouble relating. Going to predominantly white schools with a decidedly set culture allowed for little exploration.

In an interview with *The News-Letter*, he described the stifling culture of the schools he attended.

"You say 'Music City'

when really only a couple types of music are predominant," he said.

It was only after moving to Jamaica that Madu was introduced to dancehall and, consequently, rap. It was then that he fell in love with hip hop. Since that moment, his dream was set: He would become a musician.

After years of evolution and progression, Madu now raps under the alter-ego Travis Karter. The nickname came about since Madu had to hide his rap career from his strict high school. He recalled frantically running into the bathroom and making all of his Soundcloud songs private anytime he was called to the office. By changing his name, he could separate his academic life and his music.

Travis Karter's music is aggressive, loud and booming. His latest album, *Phase III*, is a rollercoaster of slapping 808s, pounding kicks

and high energy hooks.

"I want my music to be on the crossroads between the fun and exhilaration of the new school and the subject matter of the old school," Karter said.

This shows in his tracks. Karter can make songs like "Ceiling Missing," a fun, hook-carried banger, while also crafting slower, more methodical songs.

Karter writes his music following in the vein of Jay-Z and Lil Wayne, two artists who never put their verses on paper. Karter listens to the beat for a while and then turns on voice memos and starts to record.

"I close my eyes and just... go," he said. Then, once he has a base flow and some bars on the track, he'll go into the studio and "tinker with it" until there's a clear message or theme.

But his music isn't haphazard or slapped together. It is an amalgamation of his memories. "My music is most influenced by my experiences," Karter said, promising that he can explain the backstory of every line in every song.

Besides his focus on crafting, he also avoids using the word "bitch" as a derogatory term for women. Madu argues that using the word would be hypocritical.

"My mother who loves me so much is raising me, and I'm using her money to

demean women?"

He also never uses the N-word in his raps either, a markedly harder decision considering its prevalence in modern rap.

Along with his growing rap career and his challenging academic pursuits, Madu runs a charity called Water is the Answer, which provides water to rural villages in Africa. He started the project when he was 15, inspired by one of his teachers.

Madu explained the hours of work that went into its founding. "I campaigned my ass off. I spent so much time promoting," he said.

Madu's greatest characteristic is his intensity; he is passionate and determined about every aspect of his life. There is an unwavering confidence in everything he does. "Nothing can stop me," he said, without a single shred of doubt.

He sits with his back almost painfully straight. His voice is measured and solid. Every word he says seems calculated, if not preplanned. Nothing is left to chance.

He attributes part of that innate fire to the death of his relative, Craig. Madu compares his life to a marathon and describes Craig's death as almost a passing of the torch. "That's what he did for me," Madu said. "He might have passed but

SEE KARTER, B4

## The Lor Store localizes modern street fashion



COURTESY OF TANYA WONGVIBULSIN

The Lor Store features both national brands and in-house designs.

By **TANYA WONGVIBULSIN**  
Staff Writer

Last Friday, I attended the grand opening of The Lor Store, a streetwear-focused shop located in the heart of downtown Baltimore. As I opened the door, I was greeted by a crowd of Baltimorean streetwear fans and a DJ who blasted upbeat music from the speakers.

The space is decorated with a unique array of artwork, consisting of Lego-inspired tables, bright paintings and multi-colored seating arrangements.

The ambience of the store invited me to browse through its racks. I was impressed by the collection of clothing from rare streetwear brands, ranging from Bape to Stussy (I was also told that the store had pieces from Supreme, but they were long gone before I got there).

Hanging on one side of the brick walls was a series of sequined jackets that caught my attention with their great detail. Displayed on the shelves were selected shoes and accessories that would be difficult to track down elsewhere in the city.

The store, which is currently half in-house, half consignment, also has its own collection. I explored the stylish polos that blurred the lines between cool, casual and formal, as well as other items, such as t-shirts, sweaters, hoodies and headwear.

With its vibrant hues and creative embroidery (all done in-house), The Lor collection clearly stood out from the store's consignment pieces. In terms of the store's price range, The Lor collection's t-shirts and sweaters ranged from \$40-50, while some vintage items retailed for even less.

Malik Smith, founder and creative director of The Lor Store, explained that he is inspired by streetwear's ability to connect with the community and sought to offer a home for the talented local designers and artists he knew in Baltimore.

"Designing streetwear is the best way to stay socially connected through garments. Our mission is

bigger than becoming a successful retail store. We are using garments as a catalyst and to showcase the creative culture of Baltimore," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

I found the notion of a store serving as an important creative outlet for the City to be especially interesting. Smith also described his desire to positively shape Baltimore's reputation.

"It is 2018, and, when I go out of town, the first thing people bring up when I say I'm from Baltimore is *The Wire*," Smith wrote.

He argued that the city is more complex than the famed series shows. "I loved *The Wire*, but Baltimore is much more. We are a creative hub, and we do produce influential material. Lor Store was created to showcase this material," Smith wrote.

Although some people might not be familiar with the term "lor," Smith feels that the Baltimorean slang used by many popular local rappers captures the store's brand and vision of the City well, and, thus, he used it as the name of his establishment.

"Lor represents Baltimore," he wrote.

The store's Instagram page has featured several prominent local rappers, including Butch Dawson and D Zheep. The store seems to have strong connections to the City's arts scene, as evidenced by its social media presence.

Smith's future plans should appeal to all Hopkins students but especially those that are involved in the arts or enjoy checking out the local scene. He plans to continue to build the Lor Store brand, working with other artistic Baltimore natives.

"Lor Store in itself is a collaboration of Baltimore creatives. Lor is bigger than me," Smith wrote.

He spoke about plans for expansion as well.

"We plan on offering vinyl cutting and heat pressing classes very soon, and the basics on how to market your brand through social media platforms. These classes help push our overall mission of showcasing Baltimore creatives," Smith wrote.

## This Is Us amazes with post-Super Bowl episode

By **KATHERINE LOGAN**  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

If you have not watched through the post-Super Bowl episode of *This Is Us* and plan on catching up on the show, then please, I beg of you, don't read this article (and getting an editor to say that means something).

Part of what makes *This Is Us* so special is the tension it builds over time and its unpredictable nature, so don't ruin that for yourself by looking ahead. Now I'll step off of my soap-box and dive in.

Up to 27 million people, including this writer — whose team had just lost — stayed up after the Super Bowl to catch *This Is Us*. Let that number sink in for a minute. That many people haven't watched a post-Super Bowl episode of a scripted series since *House* aired after the 2008 game.

In their ads, *This Is Us* has marketed itself as a "once in a generation" series. If just any television drama had the cojones to put that in their own promo, I'd likely write its creators and marketing team off as arrogant, but *This Is Us* is the most brilliantly crafted network drama — perhaps even just television drama — currently on air, period.

Even if you don't recognize his name, you're probably already familiar with Dan Fogelman's work. Prior to creating *This Is Us*, the writer-producer was best known for writing *Crazy, Stupid, Love*, aka the movie where a shirtless Ryan Gosling does

the *Dirty Dancing* lift with Emma Stone.

That pairing actually serves as a great example of the first ingredient in Fogelman's successful projects: his teams' strong ability to cast talented performers that have great chemistry together.

In order for *This Is Us* to succeed, it is vital that we as the audience are able to fully buy into the relationship between Jack and Rebecca Pearson. Episode after episode we have to wallow in their hardships and relish in their successes as we root for them to make it through.

On the surface, Mandy Moore and Milo Ventimiglia are unexpected choices to take on these roles. However, both have delivered performances with an emotional intensity capable of subverting any of the audience's preconceived notions. As Krystal from this season of *The Bachelor* would say, there's just no one else on their level.

Fans across the country

braced themselves for a devastating blow after the Super Bowl.

Given the creative way in which Fogelman and the rest of the writers play with time, telling the story in media res, we had known what was coming for a while, yet we weren't sure when it was going to strike.

At last, they clued us in: We would find out how Jack died on his favorite day of the year, Super Bowl Sunday, on the actual evening of Super Bowl Sunday. Yes, that's how many layers of intentionality are behind every detail of this show.

This episode pulled no punches. It served to emphasize the fact of life that we tend to write off as a platitude but that, at the end of the day, is 100 percent true: No moment is guaranteed.

It seemed like a given that we'd see Jack go back into his family's flaming home in order to save their adorable rescue dog, only to never make it back out.

But for *This Is Us*, that

would've been all too easy. Instead, Jack came out of the house, face covered in soot, not only with the dog but also with most of the family's precious mementos. Once again, he's the hero, and the Pearson family thinks they're out of the woods. Of course, we know they're not.

Ultimately, Jack dies at the hospital of cardiac arrest due to excessive smoke inhalation. His last conversation with Rebecca is beautiful in all of its simplicity.

He cracks a joke about why she never bought batteries for the smoke detector that would have alerted them of the fire and, just as she goes to grab them snacks and book a hotel room, tells her that she's blocking his view of the game.

There is no long, dramatic monologue about what he wants for her and their children. There isn't an intense score alerting us to what is just in the future. Most importantly, as in life,

SEE THIS IS US, B5



CHRIS ROTH/CC BY-SA 2.0

*This Is Us* — which attracted 27 million viewers after the Super Bowl — is nearing the end of its second season.

## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

# Travis Karter talks finding inspiration

KARTER, FROM B3

his flame is passed along." The artist lives with that idea. "I can never let anyone stop me, because I have to remember I'm doing it for Craig too," he said.

His fierce determination colors all of his stories. Madu tells me that his favorite numbers are three, 33 and 333, a fairly wild selection. When I asked about it, he told me a story I was not expecting. Madu wanted to join a soccer team and ended up being cut. The number he picked for himself, three, was given to another player, while he ended up getting 33.

For most people, failures are stopping points, but not for Madu. That defeat inspired him to work on his game to the point that he started on the varsity team in high school every year he played and lead them in scoring. Now he wears that 33 proudly — another chip on his shoulder.

With all of his separate ventures, it seems like Madu's life is four times as full as everyone else's. It is almost inhuman to be able to do as much as he does.

"I make sacrifices," he said. While others make excuses and complain about

having too much work, Madu operates under the motto "You gotta do what you gotta do." Sleep is the last priority, especially when he has so much that he wants to accomplish. A full day is too short for Madu.

And he's not done yet. Madu wants to build another water well with his charity using the money he earned from his *Phase III* album release and his merchandise. Madu also hopes to collaborate with an indie band and is talking to one in Nashville and another in France. He has been performing at a variety of shows, including one at the Torrent nightclub on Feb. 2 of this year, where he opened for two EDM DJs. He just continues to work and work and work.

Working to finish his pre-law track, continuing to create music daily as well as pushing his charity forward, Madu seems more like a cyborg than a freshman in college. With such a ferocious, ambitious personality and a savage work ethic, Kristopher Madu is almost destined to succeed.

"I'm more than someone who is a rapper. This is part of my dream, part of my identity," Madu said.



COURTESY OF KRISTOPHER MADU

Madu works hard to balance his work as a student and as a musician.

# The Cloverfield Paradox falls short of the hype

By LUIS CUIEL  
Staff Writer

In the midst of an exciting Super Bowl and the hype that comes with the commercials, fans were caught off guard by a trailer for a movie that nobody was expecting.

No, I'm not talking about the one where The Rock has a prosthetic leg and has to save his family from apocalyptic monsters. What I'm talking about is the third film set in the *Cloverfield* universe.

To those of you who don't know, *Cloverfield* is a film series about monsters. The first film, *Cloverfield*, is set in New York City and follows a group of friends who are trying to survive as well as simply figure out what is happening.

It's an incredibly well made film that keeps you on the edge of your seat throughout its entire runtime but also leaves you with so many questions that you desperately want answers too.

Unfortunately *Cloverfield* was never followed up with a direct sequel. However, just two years ago, J.J. Abrams and his production company, Bad Robot Productions, surprised this rabid fanbase with *10 Cloverfield Lane*.

It's relationship to the original/first film is admittedly very minimal. The entire story takes place inside what can only be described as a fallout shelter in the middle of nowhere.

Fantastic performances from John Goodman and

Mary Elizabeth Winstead and a well-cultivated claustrophobic atmosphere made *10 Cloverfield Lane* one of the best films of 2016.

With that in mind, one can guess how high the level of anticipation for this new *Cloverfield* entry is.

Originally titled *God Particle*, little was known about the film other than that it had a stellar cast headlined by Gugu Mbatha-Raw (for you *Black Mirror* fans she plays Kelly in the phenomenal "San Junipero" episode of the series), it featured *IngLOURIOUS BASTERDS* star Daniel Brühl and it was set in space.

If you spend an unhealthy amount of time on Twitter, such as myself, you would have seen that there was a rumor that Netflix had purchased the film rights from Paramount Studios, but no confirmation nor release date had been given.

Keeping in line with the marketing styles of the previous two entries in the series, Netflix dropped a bomb on everyone by not only premiering the trailer during the "Big Game"



COURTESY OF SIEBBI/CC BY-SA 3.0

Daniel Brühl stars alongside Gugu Mbatha-Raw in Netflix's new release, *The Cloverfield Paradox*.

but by also announcing that once the game was over the film would be released on its site.

The immediacy of the film was and always will ignite controversy that can best be summarized by the question: "Is Netflix killing the film industry?" But that's a conversation for another time.

The method that Netflix used for this particular film was beneficial to the site, it got people excited, elevated the hype to insurmountable levels and then gave everyone what they wanted. Unfortunately, it wasn't something good.

The film once known as *God Particle* but released as *The Cloverfield Paradox* is set in the year 2028 in which the world is suffering from an energy crisis.

A group of scientists are sent into space to attempt to use a particle accelerator to solve said energy crisis. However as you can assume, something goes

wrong and the group finds themselves facing some kooky shit.

For roughly the first hour of this movie you get some genuinely entertaining and horrifying scenes.

The characters don't have any idea what is happening in the space station, and neither do you.

This mystery hooks you just enough to keep you invested, but once the second half of the film begins, in which we, alongside the crew, would get some answers, the film falls apart.

There are two separate stories here that only share characters. The first half is a thrilling, mystery that dabbles with horror elements that both fans of the series and casual fans can appreciate; the second half is a story in which these characters use half-assed emotional beats to justify behavior that is counterintuitive to the tasks at hand.

There's also the fact that many events that happen in the first half of the film are never addressed again. Tonal issues also plague this film, transitioning it away from the horror-science-fiction genre that it starts out as. The ridiculousness of the resolution really makes you doubt whether or not they even realized this particular aspect earlier.

Although the film isn't exceptionally good, it does feature a soundtrack that is borderline fantastic. It helps generate some sort of consistent atmosphere in a film that lacks uniformity (in terms of story).

Additionally, the cast is superb with what little characterization that the characters they portray have. The standout of course being Gugu Mbatha-Raw, who deserves better than this. The cinematography is also a strong point, and the last shot is spectacular.

Overall *The Cloverfield Paradox* is a messy, messy film that would not obtain as many views if it wasn't for its title.

If you're a casual fan you might just want to skip this one and watch something else on Netflix, and if you're a *Cloverfield* fan — I'm so sorry, but hey, later this year we get another *Cloverfield* film — this time allegedly set in World War II.

# Comedy showcase cracks up the LaB

By COLE DOUGLASS  
For The News-Letter

The JHU Stand-Up Comedy Club held their first show of the semester Feb. 3 at the LaB.

Performing to a crowd of students sitting in any open area they could find, several members of the club joked about everything from chain emails to dating over the course of the evening. And yes, in case you were wondering, there were even a couple of jokes about eating Tide Pods.

Sophomore Nick Scandura — who also MC'd the event — started off the evening by comparing relationships to roller coasters. As he put it, there are ups, there are downs and sometimes your ex-roller-coaster calls you at 2 a.m. to tell you about how much happier it is now that you aren't together anymore.

Scandura was followed by fellow sophomore Natalie Wu, who talked about her ongoing search for a sugar daddy, preferably one who's in the, "heart-attack-age-range."

She also told the story of her friend who thought that *Mulan* was an accurate representation of modern-day China and referred to the fog covering Beijing as the "fog of war."

Freshman Alex Gomes told the story of a KFC that started dealing substances a little more addictive than fried chicken. His advice: Always order from the drive through.

He also joked about how weird it is that his friends keep trying to hit on his

twin sister, especially since he absorbed her in the womb. He ended his set with a story about the first time a girl said that she liked him, to which he could only respond, "I like Goldfish."

Freshman Harry Kuperstein — who also performed in the Intersession Stand-Up Show — told jokes about his time at summer camp and the fact that one of his fellow campers is now performing as an "adult entertainer."

Later he talked about his attempts to smuggle ever-increasing amounts of food out of CharMar, culminating in him squeezing an entire display into his bag.

Finally, sophomore Laura Oing ended the show by talking about her failed attempt to join the Chinese Student Association. As she put it, the group requires more qualifications than just "being Chinese," and it's somehow even more difficult to get into than Hopkins itself.

Personally I really enjoyed the show. Admittedly I'm a really big fan of stand-up comedy, but all of the performances were pretty solid. Most of the jokes were funny — which is really all you can ask from a comedy show — and all of the comedians seemed comfortable in front of the crowd. It's a pretty basic combination, but it really helped keep the atmosphere light and the jokes moving.

Tonally, the show was pretty similar to the Intersession Stand-Up show, with a healthy balance of humor, profanity and the

occasional gross-out joke.

However, each of the comedians had a unique voice and sense of humor, and none of them blended together or faded into the background.

My favorite joke of the evening probably came from Wu, who had a pretty funny segment about chain emails and how they seem to cover every genre imaginable.

As she points out, they run the gamut from "Send this to 10 people or your mom dies" to "Send this to 10 people to spread the word of Christ" to "Happy Slut-oween" or "Merry Dickmas."

And the event seems to have been a success for the club as well. When asked how he felt about the show, Scandura expressed his happiness with the turnout — about 75 people, according to Wu.

Scandura also hoped that the show brought some publicity to the club.

"We hopefully spread the word about our relatively new club," he said. "An important thing for us right now is making sure that people interested in stand-up know about us, so [the show] definitely helped."

The Stand-Up Club also has shows planned for March 3 and 31, as well as April 20. During the final show, they are hosting an open-mic night where anybody will be able to try telling a few jokes of their own.

Anyone interested in learning more about the club should reach out through Hopkins Groups for more information.

## Valentine's Day Playlist

"Windmills of Your Mind"

by Nancy Sinatra

"La Vie En Rose"

by Louis Armstrong

"At Last" by Etta James

"Make You Feel My Love"

by Adele

"Feelin' Good"

by Nina Simone

"Can't Take My Eyes Off You"

by Frankie Valli

"If I Ain't Got You"

by Alicia Keys

"Some Unholy War"

by Amy Winehouse

"1+1" by Beyoncé

"I Feel the Earth Move"

by Carole King

# Black Heritage celebration begins with a poetic evening

By SARAH SCHREIB  
Staff Writer

Hopkins students, faculty and community members gathered in the upstairs lounge of the LaB for the 2018 Black Heritage Opening Ceremony on Friday, Feb. 2. The event, which included poetry, speeches, food and trivia, was the first in a series of events celebrating Black History Month. It was organized by the Office of Multicultural Affairs as well as the Black Heritage Celebration Committee.

The night began with speeches by Lynnise Norris, the president of the Black Faculty and Staff Association who advertised the group's second annual Student Oratory Competition, and Kwame Alston, the president of the Black Student Union.

The first performer of the night was Jasmine Mans, an author and poet from Newark, N.J. who has performed at a number of prestigious venues including the Kennedy Center, Broadway's New Amsterdam Theatre and the Sundance Film Festival. She has also opened for artists such as Mos Def and Janelle Monáe.

Her poems encapsulated a range of issues, both political and personal. Her tone shifted across a range of emotions from gratitude to longing, from anger to hope.

Mans opened her set with a poem titled "Michelle Obama" in which she thanked the former First Lady for being an inspirational figure in the lives of young black girls like her cousin.

"This poem is a thank you for being a brown girl's dream come true," she said.

Her next poem, an homage to Whitney Houston, pointed to the various accomplishments in the artist's career. She mentioned Houston's groundbreaking role in Cinderella and her famous song "I Wanna Dance with Somebody."

The next poem of her set was prefaced with Mans declaring that there were not many narratives for queer black girls like her.

What followed was a moving love poem in which she reminisced about a former lover and the profound promises they made one another.

"You found me somewhere reading poetry," she said.

Mans declared her love.

"Like my weed is your weed," she said.

She swore her loyalty.

"I will always hide like I want you to come find me," she said.

These lines transitioned into one of her most popular poems, "Dear Ex-Lover," perhaps a letter to the same woman from the prior stanzas. Mans swears she will stop thinking of this lover and stop bringing her up in conversation, while still fantasizing of one day telling her daughter about their love.

The following poem was a series of repetitive

phrases starting with the words "I know." Mans revealed a list of truths about her life and the world as a whole. She spoke about her experiences being the target of violence as a black gay woman, the kindness of the Muslim shop owners in her hometown and the inspiration behind her work.

**"You found me somewhere reading poetry."**

**— JASMINE MANS, POET AND AUTHOR**

"I know that I write about black boys because my brother doesn't talk to me," she said.

As she relayed this list, her voice shifted in tone from pain to acceptance to exasperation.

In her next poem titled "Footnotes for Kanye," Mans speaks directly to Kanye West, criticizing his choice to marry a white woman (Kim Kardashian) and his willingness to allow the white public to "claim" him.

"When Kim f\*\*\* up the lyrics of the College Dropout / Like them White folks used to f\*\*\* up your name / Do you pretend not to notice?"

She also points to his obsession with fashion and lack of political action

outside of his own concerts.

"Jesus never needed Adidas to walk."

This poem, with its quick phrasing and popular references, sparked a particularly expressive reaction from audience members, who called out affirmations and clapped after each stanza.

Mans' final poem, "Birmingham," was a devastating piece from the point of view of one of the young black girls who was murdered in the 16th Street Baptist Church in 1963 by members of the Ku Klux Klan.

Throughout all of her poems, Mans used her hands and facial features to project the deep, complex emotions expressed in her words.

Though she remained in one spot on the stage, her eyes peered out across the circular space, engaging all audience members as she spoke.

The following artist, Harold Green, brought his own experiences and world view to his poetry set. Green, a Chicago native, has performed on a number of high profile occasions and was selected to be the Inaugural Poet at Rahm Emanuel's 2015 Mayoral Inauguration.

He began his set with an exercise he called "Layup Line." He requested that members of the audience provide him with five random words with which he crafted an original poem.

From the words "serendipity," "foolish," "institutionalized," "kerfuffle" and "camouflage," Green created a short yet dense commentary on life and love.

Many of his next poems centered around political action, the meaning of optimism and the role of a leader.

Before his poem on leadership and martyrdom, Green explained his views on Martin Luther King Jr. and his role as a leader of the black civil rights movement. He then launched into a rousing, rhythmic declaration of his own desire to have a deep impact.

He repeated a similar stanza throughout the poem. With each repetition, his voice grew louder and more urgent.

"If this is the hill I die on, why can't it be a mountaintop (...) If this is the hill I die on, I swear to God it better be a mountaintop," he recited.

At this final declaration the audience erupted into a boom of cheers and claps.

Green, born on "Valentine's Day Eve," also spoke about his passion for the topics of love and respect, specifically among black men and women. He performed a series of sweet, passionate love poems centered around an all-consuming love for a woman.

Green chose to forego the use of the microphone to allow himself greater freedom to move around the stage. With his strong stage presence and obvious charm, he turned and stomped and used his hands to emphasize the significant moments of his set.

When members of the audience remained silent during certain lines, he encouraged them — in a joking manner — to cheer.

The Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Black Heritage Celebration Committee will be sponsoring events throughout February.

Upcoming events for this year's Black Heritage Celebration include the MLK Day of Service on Feb. 10, a visit to the Reginald F. Lewis Museum in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 11 and a private screening of the highly anticipated new Marvel superhero film *Black Panther* on Feb. 17.

# Big reveal celebrates strengths of *This Is Us*

THIS IS US, FROM B3

there is no closure. Hence, we feel the wallop of intense pain that hits Rebecca and her children, deep in our guts. Through their fictional experience, we become awakened to the grave nature of our own mortality.

They say hindsight is 20/20. The beauty of *This Is Us* is that it invites us to observe the glimpses of mundanity that later, when recalled by the Pearsons in adulthood, will come to symbolize so much more.

In its exploration of one family through childhood, the teen years and adulthood, *This Is Us* is a distant relative of *Boyhood*. Yet it finds a way to seamlessly convey the significance of each little detail and the ripple effects they continue to have on the "Big Three" much more effectively.

Leading up to this episode, I was concerned that *This Is Us*, which has become a weekly emotional release for myself and so many others, would jump the shark. But, somehow, they managed to weave together tragedy, humor and the show's near constant relatability as successfully as ever.

The brilliant thing about *This Is Us* is that its plot lines and the reactions they elicit rarely, if ever, feel forced. Did I sob as I watched Rebecca realize that she had to "ruin her kids' lives"?

Yes, but I didn't feel taken advantage of. It felt true; it resonated with my own love for my family, spoke to my deepest fears, the "What ifs?" of tomorrow that we all have to find a way to grapple with.

Although we've learned how Jack dies, many questions remain for the show's creative team to explore.

I personally am eagerly awaiting a deeper dive into Rebecca's life as a widow, especially what career she pursues and if she ever returns to her passion of singing in front of live audiences.

Also, when will we get flashbacks that illustrate Jack's relationship with his brother, who died while they were both serving in Vietnam? In the present day, is Kevin, inspired by confronting his dad's legacy, finally going to get his shit together? Will we watch Kate and Toby's wedding anytime soon? Will Randall and Beth remain #relationshipgoals?

I don't know the answers to any of the above, nor do I know how Fogelman and his peers continue to astonish each week, but you can be sure that as long as they sustain this level of intensity and demonstrate such fine-tuned craftsmanship, I'll be tuning in.

Check for new episodes of *This Is Us* every Tuesday at 9 p.m. on NBC. Already on the 15th episode, the show is likely nearing the end of its second season; be on the lookout for more dramatic reveals.

# Timberlake's Super Bowl halftime show falls short

By AMELIA ISAACS  
Staff Writer

Until last Sunday, Feb. 4, I had never seen any part of the Super Bowl; not the game, the commercials nor the halftime show.

In case you're worried that I'm an American who had a very bizarre childhood, or grew up without a TV or that has been literally living under a rock all my life, I can assure you that I haven't — I'm just British.

The Super Bowl halftime show is perhaps more of an event than the game itself (at least to those of us who aren't football fans).

This is such to the point where, when somebody asked me earlier this year if I had heard of the Super Bowl, I replied asking if that was the thing where a famous celebrity performs half way through.

Needless to say, as with many American traditions and spectacles that I have yet to participate in, I had high expectations for the Super Bowl — particularly for the halftime show.

I had heard about (but never cared enough to take the time to YouTube) Lady Gaga's infamous roof jump, Left Shark and the Janet Jackson scandal and was excited to experience the spectacle live for the very first time. That was until I heard that Justin Timberlake would be performing.

Now I don't necessarily have anything against Justin Timberlake, there's just nothing particularly exciting or memorable about him as a performer in my eyes.

While there was nothing necessarily wrong with his performance, it was just not massively exciting or noteworthy. It seemed like the Super Bowl Selfie



J VETTORINO/CC BY 2.0

Timberlake's halftime performance was marred by his infamous appearance alongside Janet Jackson in 2004.

Kid (who seemed to have no idea who Justin Timberlake was) caused more excitement than the actual show, which is never a good sign.

There was a whole lot of controversy surrounding Timberlake's return to the Super Bowl stage — which I know practically every American will know more about than I do, so I'm not going to go into any detail.

However, I do think the choice to sing "Rock Your Body" (the song during which the Janet Jackson incident occurred) was frankly just stupid.

He chose to pretend to be a bandleader and shouted, "Hold up, stop!" when he arrived at the moment the clothes-ripping happened, with the band shifting to "SexyBack." And with a weird smile to the camera from Timberlake, he only drew more attention to the moment. At least he didn't wink, I guess?

The moment seemed to be an acknowledgement by Timberlake of what happened, but also an attempt to sort of cover it up and try to move on when the

internet clearly hasn't.

However, I feel like Timberlake was also caught up in many lose-lose situations. With "Rock Your Body," if he hadn't sung it, people would be outraged by his not acknowledging what happened, and by singing it he draws more attention to it. Either way, not everyone is going to be happy.

Similarly with his tribute to Prince: If he hadn't done anything at all there would have been outrage, but his acknowledgement of him, regardless of whether there was a hologram or not, was also always going to cause an outrage.

He also wore some outfits which could at best be described as questionable and at worst as frankly ridiculous.

Having said that, I don't think there was anything very offensive about his performance and, while it may not have involved any jumping off of roofs or clothes ripping, there was something fun and nostalgic about the show and the crowd-pleasing songs.

People generally like the

smooth, suave Justin Timberlake, and while I don't think his bandana scarf and fringed leather jacket really projected that vibe, his performance was fun.

With lots of dancers, a big band and plenty of mirrors, there was something about his performance that provided a little bit of fun — and he was never going to please anyone anyway.

The audience involvement with the color changing armbands, the light bouncing off of all the mirrors on the field, and the purple light flooding the stadium and the surrounding city were definitely highlights of the performance.

However, it's not really a good sign if the lighting is the focal point of a performance.

While I was definitely disappointed by the first halftime show I've ever seen live, it could have been worse. Let's just hope that next year will be better, because I'm hoping the Super Bowl will impress me enough over my four years here to keep me watching after I leave.

# CARTOONS, ETC.

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By GISELLE RUIZ



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# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## Can hyperbaric treatment heal brain injuries?



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Researchers in Tel Aviv discovered that post-concussion syndrome can be treated with daily hyperbaric sessions.

By ISAAC CHEN  
Staff Writer

Traumatic-brain injuries (TBI) is a leading cause of death and disability in the United States. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, there were about 2.8 million TBI related visits, hospitalizations and deaths, contributing to nearly 50,000 deaths.

TBI can also contribute to impairments in memory and vision and can even affect one's emotional health. The issues around TBIs not only can affect the individual but also have damaging effects on the family.

Some current treatments for TBI include rehabilitation and surgery. However, most nonpharmacologic and pharmacologic treatments have not produced any effective results. Shai Efrati, a researcher and professor at

Tel Aviv University in Israel and a leading hyperbaric scientist, demonstrated in his recent study that hyperbaric therapy can induce neuroplasticity in victims of TBIs.

Hyperbaric medicine, a relatively old treatment, is done through the use of high concentrated oxygen at pressures three times greater than the atmosphere to treat diseases. It is commonly used to treat carbon monoxide poisoning, snake bites and central nervous system injuries.

A British physician named Henshaw was the first to utilize hyperbaric therapy in 1662. Hyperbaric therapy began in the United States when the first hyperbaric room was built in New York in 1891 by Dr. J. Leonard Corning. In 1928, Dr. Orval Cunningham of Kansas University Medical School built the largest

hyperbaric chamber in the world in Cleveland, Ohio.

While oxygen seems like a harmless gas, the potential risks of hyperbaric therapy is oftentimes underemphasized.

It is only safe when the pressure does not exceed 300Pka or the length of the treatment does not go over 120 minutes.

In people with TBIs, a variety of symptoms consisting of headaches, dizziness and changes in sleep pattern can develop into post-concussion syndrome. For most patients the symptoms fade away between seven to 10 days, but sometimes they can last for weeks, months and even

become permanent.

Efrati and colleagues treated 15 patients suffering from prolonged post-concussion syndrome with 60 daily hyperbaric sessions. Each session lasted 90 minutes.

"These patients don't have enough oxygen to heal the injured parts of their brains," Efrati said in an interview with *The Washington Post*. "Hyperbaric treatment massively increases the amount of oxygen available to the brain."

On the other hand, David Cifu, a researcher at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, who has spent much of his career treating veterans with brain injuries, expresses doubts about hyperbaric treatment.

Using highly sensitive MRI techniques, Efrati and his research team found increased blood flow and volume in the brain. Cognitive tests also showed that hyperbaric therapy significantly improved the patients' scores in memory, executive function and information processing speed.

Efrati added that hyperbaric treatment can extend beyond the brain. High pressurized and concentrated oxygen can be used to treat many other damaged parts of the body.

## Researchers in China clone two macaques

By ALLISON CHEN  
Staff Writer

On Jan. 24 earlier this year, a paper published in the journal *Cell* described the successful cloning of two macaque monkeys at the Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Neuroscience in Shanghai.

Zhong Zhong and Hua Hua, the baby macaques, are the first primates cloned through a technique called somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT), famously used to clone Dolly the Sheep over 20 years ago.

SCNT involves removing the nucleus from an egg cell and replacing it with the nucleus of a non-reproductive, or somatic, cell. Alternatively the somatic cell can be fused with the enucleated egg cell.

The modified egg cell is then stimulated to divide, and it eventually becomes an early-stage embryo that can be transplanted into a surrogate female. The resultant animal, the clone, is genetically identical to the donor of the somatic cell.

Since Dolly, SCNT has been successfully used to clone 23 other mammals, from rats to cows. However, primates proved more

difficult. Although a rhesus macaque named Tetra was created in 1999, the cloning technique used was an entirely different one known as embryo splitting. This method is simpler than SCNT and more limited, in terms of the potential number of clones able to be created.

The researchers in Shanghai, led by Qiang Sun, used somatic cells taken from both fetal and adult monkeys. 127 egg cells transplanted with fetal cells resulted in 79 embryos, transferred to 21 surrogates.

Zhong Zhong and Hua Hua were the only live births, born at full term by caesarean section, and are currently around two months old. While there were also two live births from embryos created with adult cells, neither infant survived past 30 hours.

The researchers' successful procedure involved treating egg cells with compounds that modified the transplanted DNA and facilitated embryonic development.

The cloning of the two macaques has raised concerns about the possibility

SEE CLONE, PAGE B9

## Combating climate change through geoengineering

By ANNA CHEN  
Staff Writer

Scientists at the University of New South Wales have found that using climate engineering to modify the surface of the land in crowded urban areas and in areas of agricultural growth in North America, Asia and Europe has yielded promising results, reducing extreme temperatures by two to three degrees Celsius (about four to five degrees Fahrenheit).

Many organizations and individuals actively participate in the effort to curb the size of their own carbon footprints, but it is going to take a lot more to stop and, one day, to reverse the effects of human activity on the global climate.

Scientists have turned their attention to geoengineering, the large-scale manipulation of the environment in attempt to combat climate change.

However, ideas such as adding iron to the ocean to counteract its growing acidity, releasing large amounts of sulphate aerosols into the atmosphere or

engineering enormous mirrors in space that can reflect sunlight off into a different direction, have been met with skepticism.

It is difficult to predict the effect that these geoengineering actions would have on the overall climate and on the many organisms that live on Earth. Even if these ideas theoretically

**"Regional land-based climate engineering... is just one part of the possible climate solution."**

— SONIA SENEVIRATNE, ETH ZURICH

work and have been tested in a laboratory, it is impossible to know the larger-scale and long-term impacts. That is why the new research at the University of New South Wales, recently published in the journal *Nature Geoscience*, is receiving significant attention. The researchers modeled how changing only the radiative properties of large cities and agricultural areas in three different continents would change average temperature, extreme temperature and rainfall.

The modifications the scientists modeled include lightening the color of buildings and roads in urban areas and changing crops and engaging in no-till agriculture in

SEE CLIMATE, PAGE B9

## CDC says this may be the worst flu season in a decade

By SHERRY SIMKOVIC  
Staff Writer

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) predicted that this year's flu will be the worst in almost 10 years.

Flu season usually begins in the fall and continues into the winter. The exact reason for the spread of the virus from October to May is unclear.

Typically between five and 20 percent of Americans contract the virus during the course of each year's flu season. On average, 200,000 people are hospitalized annually and 3,000 to 50,000 die from the illness. Generally children under five years of age and adults over 65 are the highest-risk patients for flu.

To prevent the spread of flu, doctors recommend yearly vaccinations for people of all ages. At its most effective, the vaccine reduces the risk of contracting the flu by 60 percent.

This year's flu virus is starkly different from that of other seasons, mostly because it has persisted across the United States at a severe level for three weeks.

"We often see different parts of the country 'light up' at different times, but for the past three weeks, the entire country has been experiencing lots of flu, all at the same time," said Dan Jernigan, the director of the Influenza Division in the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the CDC, in a press release.

Notably, in California and on the West Coast, the amount of hospitalizations from this flu season is four

times the amount from the 2014-2015 flu season. Minnesota had twice as many people hospitalized, and New York City is beginning to report high levels of hospitalization.

According to Jernigan, the number of patients going to their doctor showing signs of influenza-like symptoms has risen to 6.6 percent, the highest level of influenza-related visits to a doctor since the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, when it peaked at 7.7 percent.

The current rate of hospitalizations is 41.9 per 100,000. Jernigan also noted that the rate of hospitalization has been higher among baby boomers, those between 50 and 64, and young children than it has been in past years.

"Baby boomers have higher [hospitalization] rates than [their] grandchildren right now," Jernigan said.

Typically those over 65 represent the majority of those hospitalized. Jernigan linked baby boomers' hospital admissions to their skipping out on flu shots. It is estimated that only 41 percent of this cohort received their shots.

"Those folks are the ones that would really benefit from having higher vac-



PUBLIC DOMAIN

According to the CDC, the flu vaccine seems to be less effective than it has been in the past.

nation coverage," Jernigan said. "These are folks that are at the peak of their careers a lot of times. They are managing a lot of the businesses and so them missing work because of the flu is something that can impact not only them and their families, but also those that are in the businesses that they work for."

The latest reports reveal that 37 children have died over the course of this flu season.

"We expect there will be more reports of pediatric deaths, similar to what have seen in more severe seasons," Jernigan said.

Many, including Jernigan, have blamed the H3N2 strain of influenza for this year's severity. H3N2 has been responsible for previous bad seasons such as 1997-1998 and 2003-2004.

"In seasons where H3N2 is the main cause of influenza, we see more cases,

more visits to the doctor, more hospitalizations and more deaths, especially among older people," Jernigan said.

Scientists and physicians predict that the final tallies for this year's season will closely resemble those of the 2014-2015 season. In that year, 34 million Americans got the flu, 710,000 were hospitalized and about 56,000 died.

Jernigan suspected that the method of using eggs to manufacture the vaccine may to be blamed for its ineffectiveness this year. Despite this he still recommends getting a flu vaccine if you haven't already. He also recommended taking everyday precautions to avoid catching the virus, like washing your hands, covering your cough if you're sick and staying home from work or school to prevent spreading the flu to others.

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

# Atmospheric traits may help us find alien life

By JESSICA KASAMOTO  
Staff Writer

From science-fiction movies to Area 51 myths, it is very apparent that modern society holds a deep interest in what lies beyond the limits of the earth — more specifically, the possibility of life on other planets.

A recent study from the University of Washington has claimed that looking for a chemical disequilibrium that occurs in atmospheres may be key in detecting planets with extraterrestrial life.

While UFO sightings and alien research may seem to be a recent pop-culture phenomenon, the search for extraterrestrial life actually began more than a century ago. In fact, some of the early searches for extraterrestrial life began with the invention of the radio.

In 1896, Nikola Tesla, the inventor of the AC electricity design system, claimed that his wireless electrical transmission system may be used to communicate with aliens on Mars.

In fact, in 1899 he believed he detected a Martian signal, but more recent analysis of his work suggests that the signal might have merely originated from other radios.

In 1924, Mars was in a position where the planet was closer to Earth than any time before. To take advantage of this event and to further the search for alien life, the U.S. developed “National Radio Silence Days,” which was a period of three days in August where radios were kept silent for five minutes every hour with the hope of encountering alien signals.

The radio was used in several other key searches for alien life, most notably Frank Drake’s Project Ozma, where a giant radio telescope was used to detect alien life. This radio telescope later led to the development of the SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) institute, as well as NASA’s Project Cyclops.

More recently, scientists have gradually started to take a different approach to uncovering life on other planets. An emerging method in the field is to search for biosignatures, which are substances that provide evidence of past or present life on other planets. The first major attempt to do so was in the 1970s, when two probes called the Viking 1 and Viking 2 were sent to Mars in order to uncover signs of metabolism on Mars’ surface.

Now, more than 40 years later, it is well known that the search for atmospheric oxygen is one of the key ways to detect life on other planets.

However, researchers at the University of Washington have begun to

question just how reliable this technique may be.

Joshua Krissansen-Totton, a PhD student studying earth and space sciences at the University of Washington (UW), expressed his doubts during a press release.

“We don’t want to put all our eggs in one basket. Even if life is common in the cosmos, we have no idea if it will be life that makes oxygen. The biochemistry of oxygen production is very complex and could be quite rare,” Krissansen-Totton said in a press release.

Krissansen-Totton and other researchers at UW have taken a different approach in uncovering extraterrestrial life. In their study on the history of

life on Earth, they have realized that a mixture of gases that are out of equilibrium could most likely only occur with the presence of life. More specifically, they believe the combination of meth-

ane and carbon dioxide without carbon monoxide is a key combination to look for in foreign atmospheres when searching for alien life.

Carbon levels in methane and carbon dioxide represent two different levels of oxidation. While carbon dioxide molecules try to hold as many oxygen molecules as possible, methane carbons oftentimes lack oxygen molecules.

“So you’ve got these extreme levels of oxidation. And it’s hard to do that through non-biological processes without also producing carbon monoxide, which is intermediate,” Krissansen-Totton said.

While the researchers still believe that the search for oxygen is a solid way to detect life, they agree that the method may be less effective because the presence of oxygen is less likely to be detected than the combination of the two other gases.

With this, the search for extraterrestrial life continues. While some may be doubtful that humans can find, let alone contact, extraterrestrial life anytime soon, others, such as freshman biomedical engineering major Giang Hoang, are more optimistic.

“Just through mere statistics on the stars and the planets in the universe, the chance of finding life out there is definitely not zero,” Hoang said in an interview with *The News-Letter*.

Additionally, Hoang expressed her belief that since human beings have already discovered a few planets with roughly the same conditions as Earth, life is most likely existing somewhere out there right now. In the future it may be merely a matter of time, distance and technology that determines whether humans can ever make contact.

# Protein found in both taste buds and inner ear

By RACHEL HUANG  
Staff Writer

Functions in the body are commonly interconnected, but many of them often have unusual connective networks. Recently researchers at the University of Southern California (USC) Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences discovered that cells responsible for detecting sour foods are functionally connected to the vestibular system in the ear.

The researchers stumbled upon a new family of ion channels, known as the otopetrin family of genes, that linked these two systems together.

Ion channels play an important role in the body. In short, they are membrane proteins that allow for specific ions to pass through, thereby creating an action potential — or electrical impulse — to be sent across the cell membrane.

These action potentials happen on an all-or-none basis, kind of like flipping a light switch. They either occur fully or not at all. Action potentials take place when a stimulus temporarily causes a shift in the neuron’s membrane potential due to a sudden movements of ions moving in and out of a neuron.

At resting potential, the inside of the neuron is negative compared to the outside because of the large amount of positive sodium ions present on the outside. When the sodium ion channels open, an influx of sodium ions rush into the neuron. If the depolarizing current reaches the thresh-

old level, an action potential occurs.

In 2010, Emily Liman, a professor of biological sciences at USC Dornsife, showed that a specific proton channel was responsible for the cells that detect sour taste. However, the genes

Otop1 is a gene that has been linked to balance and coordination and is also found in taste cells.

responsible for expressing this proton channel were unknown at that time. With RNA sequencing, RNAseq for short, Liman and her team were able to determine the genes responsible for expressing only sour taste cells.

According to *ScienceDaily*, Yu-Hsiang Tu, a graduate student in Liman’s lab, tested each gene individually in order to find the one that produced a proton-conducting protein in cells that did not have any proton-conducting channels. They identified this gene to be the otopetrin 1 (Otop1) gene.

The otopetrin family, specifically Otop1, has been proven to be essential for people to maintain their balance. This is because Otop1 is required for the proper development of the otoconia, which are calcium carbonate crystals that

provide the sense of acceleration and gravity. Mutations in Otop1 have been shown to compromise balancing ability in mice.

Investigators speculated that pH may be the underlying factor that connects the taste system to the vestibular system.

The pH scale is influenced by the presence of positive hydrogen ions. A higher concentration of positive hydrogen ions may indicate a low pH, or an acidic solution, whereas a lower concentration of ions would show a high pH, or a basic solution.

Liman and her team hypothesized that, in the vestibular system, a specific pH condition may be necessary to ensure proper formation of otoconia crystals. By compromising the necessary pH conditions, the ability to balance may also be affected.

“We never in a million years expected that the molecule that we were looking for in taste cells would also be found in the vestibular system,” Liman said in a press release.

Liman believes that this discovery highlights the power of fundamental research in science.

Kavya Boyapati, a sophomore molecular and cellular biology major at Hopkins, said during an interview with *The News-Letter* that she would have never guessed that there would be a connection between what seems to be two completely different systems.

“There’s no doubt that more connections like these will be discovered in the future, and I can’t wait to see what two systems will get linked together next time,” Boyapati said.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

# People with Down syndrome have a super genome

By ELAINE CHIAO  
Science & Technology  
Editor

Trisomy 21, also known as Down syndrome, is one of the most well-known forms of genetic conditions. The incidence of trisomy 21 is one in 700 live births.

Normally, healthy people are born with two copies of each of their 23 sets of chromosomes. However, people who have trisomy 21 are born with an additional, abnormal copy of chromosome 21.

How do geneticists explain that many children with trisomy 21 can survive up to the age of 65 under this chromosomal abnormality? The answer, it seems, might lie in the unique genome that these children possess.

A genome is essentially a whole, comprehensive set of genes that characterizes an individual. Stylianos

Antonarakis, the honorary professor at the University of Geneva’s Faculty of Medicine, who is a pioneer in this research, explained that there is great variety within each person’s genome. Some genomes, it turns out, are more beneficial to sustaining health and less prone to developing illnesses.

“It’s the genome that determines what becomes of a person, and makes him or her grow up and grow old, with or without disease,” Antonarakis said, according to *ScienceDaily*.

After many studies, researchers from the University of Geneva (UNIGE) and University of Lausanne (UNIL) have come to the conclusion that children born with trisomy 21 have an innately superior genome that might be able to compensate for the defects found on their chromosome 21.

Antonarakis’ research

team tested the genetic nuances of more than 380 subjects with trisomy 21, including their gene variation, regulation and expression. Afterwards, they compared the resulting data to normal subjects without trisomy 21.

The first genetic test aimed to observe trisomy 21 subjects who carry various deleterious mutations. While normal subjects carry two chromosome 21s, trisomy 21 subjects carry three. Therefore, there is a smaller probability that a specific mutation would be present on all three copies of their chromosome 21. This reduces the harmful effects of a specific mutation.

Additionally, the geneticists discovered that many genes on chromosome 21 are overexpressed for trisomy 21 patients. This was not surprising, considering three copies would be expected to have more expressions than two copies. However, Konstantin Popadin, a researcher at UNIL’s Center for Integrative Genomics, was particularly surprised to find out that people with trisomy 21 also have more regulators in their bodies that tune down the overexpression levels.

In the last portion of their research, Antonarakis’ team noticed that there is something special in the genome of a trisomy 21 subject.

“For a normal genome, the expressions oscillate between 30 and 70, while for a person with Down

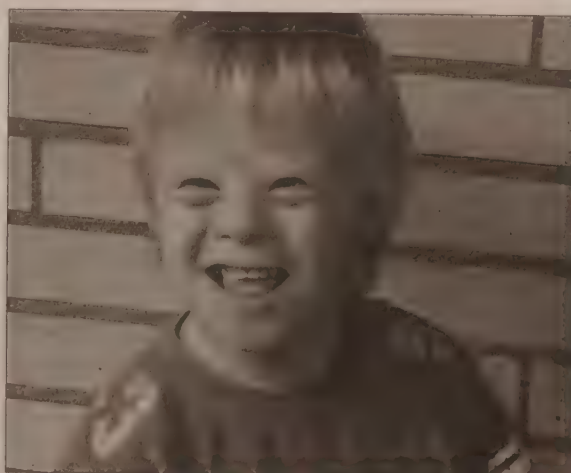
syndrome, the curve is narrower around the peak that is very close to 50 for genes on all the chromosomes,” Antonarakis said.

The medium score, 50, is considered to represent the optimal expression level. And indeed, this score matches the data obtained from the trisomy 21 subjects. As a conclusion, scientists deduced that for some specific factor, the genomes of trisomy 21 patients are more healthy and special.

From the three tests conducted above, geneticists from UNIGE and UNIL thus reached the belief that trisomy 21 produces higher quality genomes. Fetuses with an extra chromosome 21 survive through pregnancy and subsequent adulthood because many of their genes make up for the defects on trisomy 21, and those who don’t make it to childbirth often die because they lack such a strong genome.

Kyle Cunningham, a genetics professor in the department of biology at Hopkins, explained another way in which individuals with trisomy 21 might be less prone to developing illnesses.

“While trisomy 21 individuals have highly increased rates of leukemia, heart disease and other life-threatening maladies when young, they have greatly reduced rates of other kinds of tumors and cancers,” Cunningham said in an interview with *The News-Letter*.



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Children with trisomy 21 may possess a unique genome superior to others.

# Geoengineering can fix extreme temperatures

CLIMATE, FROM B7

farmlands. This study largely eliminates the risk of unexpected outcomes because it aims solely to alter the radiative properties of land surface while allowing for regional testing to ensure the reliability of the method.

They found noticeable change in rainfall solely in Asia and observed only small impacts in lowering average temperature. However, in all three continents, they noticed a significant decrease in temperature extremes.

With temperature extremes around the globe reaching an all-time high, five degrees Fahrenheit can make a big difference and be the first step in stopping a disastrous future of sweltering summers, agricultural losses and heat-related natural disasters.

“Regional land-based climate engineering is not a silver bullet, it is just one part of a possible climate solution,” lead author Sonia Seneviratne of ETH Zurich said in a press release.

Although this study appears promising, it is up to the continued efforts of scientists, politicians, environmental enthusiasts and even students to push the movement for a greener world.

People can deny global warming. They can refuse to acknowledge climate change. But they cannot change the facts or hide the truth. Around the world warm days are

getting hot, hot days are getting hotter and the hottest days are breaking century-old records. Heat waves are growing in frequency, occurring three times more frequently than the long-term averages as of 2012.

For residents of many places in Oklahoma and Texas, the summer of 2011 brought more than 100 days over 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

Not only are the hottest days increasing in temperature and frequency, but colder days are also getting fewer. 50 years ago, there were just as many daily record high temperatures as record lows. This past decade, record high temperatures have occurred twice as often as record lows.

According to the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, scientists expect 20 record highs for every record low by the year 2050 if the emission of greenhouse gases is not heavily regulated.

Extreme heat can cause a multitude of other disasters, from drought and wildfires to famine. In fact, extreme heat is considered the deadliest natural disaster in America, claiming the lives of an average of 600 people per year — more than the death tolls of earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, lightning and tornadoes combined.

Thus scientists are realizing it is more pressing than ever to find new ways to combat climate change.

# Researchers clone baby primates for the first time

CLONE, FROM B7

of human cloning. Human embryos have already been cloned for the purpose of producing embryonic stem cells, and the recent development in Shanghai has sparked worry that it could be a step toward human reproductive cloning.

In the near future, it is more likely that this technology will be adapted to create cloned animals for research. Researchers anticipated this application after the cloning of the rhesus monkey Tetra 18 years ago when the BBC reported that the researchers who created Tetra were motivated to produce cloned monkeys to study human diseases.

As a procedure to create animals for research, SCNT, used to clone Zhong Zhong and Hua Hua, would be an advancement over embryo splitting, which was used to clone Tetra. Mu-Ming Poo, who participated in the Shanghai study and is one of the paper’s co-authors, has been explicit about the intention to develop laboratory animals, telling reporters that the macaques can be widely used to study human disease and treatment options.

Using genetically identical primate research subjects would be of great interest in fields like Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s research. It would allow

scientists to examine, in an animal more similar to humans, the impact of drugs and treatments more effectively, without having to consider genetic differences.

In addition, using SCNT in conjunction with gene editing could be used to produce research animals with specific genetic alterations.

However, conducting research on cloned primates carries its own set of new ethical considerations. Jeffrey Kahn, director of the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics commented on these considerations

“Cloning non-human primates hasn’t been a topic of consideration in bioethics prior to the announcement, and I think the community of bioethics scholars is waiting to understand the potential uses and applications of the technology,” he said in an interview with *The News-Letter*.

For the time being, the researchers in Shanghai have said that they abided by the U.S. National Institutes of Health’s international guidelines on animal research.

They are anticipating the birth of more macaque clones in the next few months, in addition to continuing to monitor Zhong Zhong and Hua Hua, who appear to be developing normally.

# The past, present and future of the space race

By ALLISON CHEN, TERESA NG & JONATHAN PATTERSON  
Staff Writers

*In this feature, we explore how space science research has been and still is associated with both absurdity and great power competition. We delve into the roots of rocketry in war, the space race between the U.S. and the USSR, and what some consider to be the beginnings of a second space race between the U.S. and China. Through this piece, we hope to shed light on the nature of international competition and cooperation in space.*

## Aliens and Rivals

A month ago, Americans learned that the Pentagon spent several millions on a secret project to investigate UFOs. Former U.S. Senator Harry Reid, who spearheaded the effort, denied that he was “embarrassed or ashamed or sorry” for the project’s existence.

Around the same time, *The Atlantic* ran an article, “What Happens if China Makes First Contact?”, reporting on China constructing the largest radio astronomy telescope to search for alien life. A CNN article illustrated the relative sizes of telescopes, showing America to be two places behind China.

Commentators have started to wonder if a space race has been heating up between the two countries. In 2003 China became the third country after Russia and the U.S. to independently send a human to space. In 2016 it launched more rockets than Russia and as many as America. China hopes to send astronauts to the moon by 2036 and is shooting for Mars in the long-run.

Due to a sense of unease and supposed national security concerns, the U.S. banned China from the International Space Station (ISS), the American-led initiative that has welcomed scientists from countries ranging from South Africa to Malaysia.

In 2016 the Congressional Subcommittee on Space held the hearing “Are We Losing the Space Race to China?” According to Dennis Shea, chairman of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, China’s gains in space may give the country economic, political and diplomatic benefits. One possibility is that increased innovation and job growth in the space industry could help China’s slowing economy pick up slack and transition to more sophisticated sectors.

In addition, the U.S. appeared to be lagging behind in its exploration of the cos-

mos. American astronauts have not left orbit since 1972, with no plans to return to the moon in sight and the ISS mission due to expire in 2024. But this may change with Trump’s Space Policy Directive 1, a formal order for NASA to prepare for another moon landing.

While it remains unclear whether Congress will assign the necessary funding to such projects, Trump seems interested in keeping American space technology great and sees potential military applications from its development.

“So we are the leader and we’re going to stay the leader, and we’re going to increase it many-fold,” Trump said at the signing of the directive.

## First Encounters

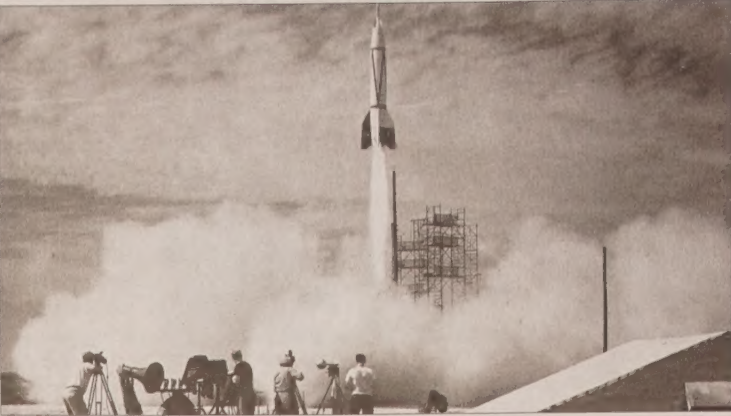
It is perhaps symbolic that the first human-made objects launched into space traveled on the backs of modified V-2 rockets.

Developed by German scientists under the lead of aerospace engineer Wernher von Braun, the V-2 was a groundbreaking advancement in rocket technology. The first ballistic missile was launched vertically, angled mid-flight and followed a parabolic free-fall path to its target. Aside from its fearsome speed and range, the V-2 could reach heights of around 80 kilometers, or 50 miles, almost brushing the thermosphere.

Despite their late entry into World War II, V-2s killed over 2,000 civilians in Britain alone, taking the lives of tens of thousands of forced laborers during production. They failed to change the outcome of the war to the Nazi officials’ chagrin, but they were a powerful new technology, which both the United States and the Soviet Union were eager to acquire.

## A Missile by Any Other Name

As the war in Europe drew to a close, the U.S. launched Operation Paperclip, which brought more than 1,600 German scientists and technicians to America, including Wernher von Braun and his team. Similarly, Operation Osoaviakhim, the Soviet parallel to Operation Paperclip, forcibly relocated several thousand scientists from the occupied Germany to Russia.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

In the 1940s, German V-2 rockets were the first man-made objects to be launched into space.

The U.S. and the USSR began utilizing German scientists’ experience, V-2 examples or parts, and designs. This gave rise to the first intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), the R-7, created by the engineer Sergei Korolev and his group. Improving upon the V-2’s range and the weight of payload capable of being carried, it successfully launched on August 21, 1957. The United States’ first ICBM was put up two years later.

However, while von Braun and Korolev were successful designers of missile weaponry, their passions lay in space.

Korolev had imagined the application of rocket technologies in space even in the early 1950s. When the United States publicly considered the idea of a satellite launch, Korolev was eager to point out to the Soviets of the potential prestige and other benefits if the USSR achieving this feat first.

In this Korolev would be successful. Sputnik 1, Earth’s first artificial satellite, launched in October of 1957, powered by a modified R-7 rocket. Sputnik 2, with a dog as its passenger, and Sputnik 3, bearing a variety of research instruments, were also sent up within the next 12 months.

The demonstration of Soviet technical ability famously sparked consternation in America about falling behind as a scientific power, in addition to fears about the possibility of the USSR having gained new weapon abilities that the U.S. could not match.

## Onwards and Upwards

In the “space race” sparked by the United States’ announcement of its satellite ambitions, the V-2 would continue to be a significant influence. In fact, the V-2 influenced the design of America’s Redstone rockets, also developed by Wernher von Braun and his team.

Originally designed as Army ballistic missiles, Redstones powered the successful launch of Explorer 1, America’s first satellite, as well as the Mercury-Redstone launch vehicles, which carried the first American into space. Von Braun’s team further developed the Jupiter rockets, a derivative of the Redstone, as well as the Saturn V rocket, which powered the Apollo 11 mission that landed Americans on the moon.

Throughout the entire endeavor, the Soviet Union was also continuing to develop their space program, which owed much to the efforts of Sergei Korolev. Both countries tested rockets and launched satellites and craft at a breakneck pace, watched avidly by the news media and populations of both nations. Both

countries vied for firsts that could be used as examples to justify technical and, by implication, economic, military and political primacy.

## (Enough) Space for All

The militarization of space has not stopped since the end of the Cold War. In the waning months of 2017, Congress and the Pentagon were battling over the idea of a U.S. Space Corps, a new uniformed service within the Air Force. In August, the U.S. House of Representatives approved legislation that called on the Department of Defense to create this service. The bill’s bipartisan supporters claimed that the Pentagon did not put a high enough priority on the security of space.

Although the bill was eventually scrapped by Congress, it once again raised the issue of space as a potential battlefield.

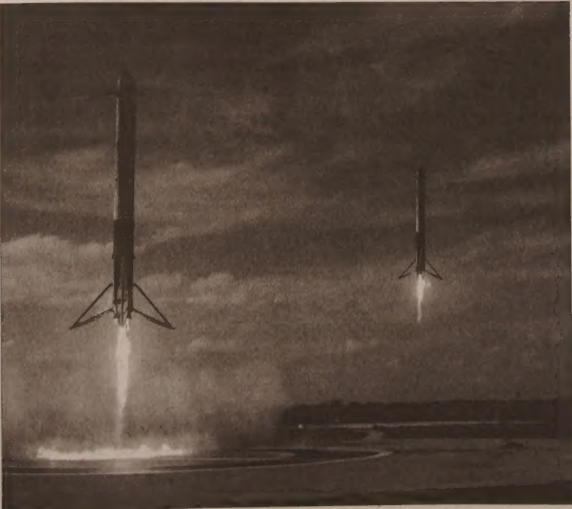
The first space race between the U.S. and USSR might have reached its end, but with China’s out-of-atmosphere capabilities seemingly growing each year, as well as the increased privatization of the space industry through companies like SpaceX and Virgin Galactic, a new and different space race may be developing.

As China continues to expand its reach in space, the final frontier could become a higher priority for the U.S. And with the private sector possibly providing more efficient solutions to spaceflight’s most expensive challenges, the door is open for the U.S. to enter into another space race.

Yet while there is great mistrust between the U.S. and its potential rivals, there is cause for optimism. Space science is best known for some of the most cinematic moments of Cold War competition, but it was also a remarkable foothold for diplomacy in the years of reconciliation.

Just as ping pong helped pave Nixon’s road to China, events like the Apollo-Soyuz mission and collaboration over the ISS were part of warming relations with the Soviets. Similarly, China’s new telescope could contribute to international collaboration over extraterrestrial research. While Chinese astronomers will have priority in the use of China’s new telescope for the next two or three years, it is expected to be open to international access after that.

From V-2s to the space race to the search for alien life, space has been our uncertain frontier. As international tensions rise, this uncertainty shows no sign of receding. At the same time, we look to science and space’s great ability to inspire cooperation and humility in order to reach new heights.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

In the near future, companies like SpaceX might play a role in the space race.

SPORTS

# M. Basketball extends winning streak to seven



HOPKINSPORTS.COM

Junior Michael Gardner has scored double digits in five straight games.

By GREG MELICK  
Sports Editor

The men's basketball team was riding a five-game winning streak as they entered two more Conference games this past weekend. They nipped at the heels of the top two teams in the Centennial Conference, winning in games against the Gettysburg College Bullets and the Dickinson College Red Devils.

The first game for the Jays was on the road against Gettysburg. Offensively, the Jays dominated from the start, hitting three three-pointers before the Bullets scored a single point. Hopkins took a 9-0 lead three and a half minutes into the game. They kept the lead at around 10 points for the next eight minutes of the game.

Eventually, however, Gettysburg went on a run, chipping away at the Blue Jays' lead to take their first lead of the game, thanks to a layup by senior Matt England with only three seconds left in the first half.

England was the leading scorer for the Bullets, with eight of their 31 first-half points. For the Blue Jays, junior guard Michael Gardner led the team with 12 of the Jays' 29 points. The 12 points came on four-for-nine shooting from three, and the overall Hopkins team shot seven for 17 from beyond the arc.

The Jays started the second half similarly to how they started the first, scoring the first seven points to retake the lead. Later in the half, they went on another run, taking the score from 38-35 and scoring 12 straight points to push the lead out to 50-35. Spurring the run was a layup by sophomore forward Harry O'Neil who scored another layup to cap off the Blue Jays' run.

From that point on, Hopkins would not give up the lead, and the Bullets never got closer than six points from the Jays. Hopkins secured a 73-63 victory over the Bullets.

For the Bullets, senior Cameron Stewart ended the game with 21 points, 16 of which came in the second half.

On the side of the Blue Jays, Gardner contributed 21 of his own, O'Neil scored 11, senior forward Kyle Doran had 13 points and freshman guard Conner Delaney chipped in with 12 in the Blue Jays' balanced scoring attack.

Hopkins really stepped up on defense in the second half, holding Gettysburg to just two for nine from three in the second half. So far, the defense has been the theme of their winning streak.

"Our defense has carried us. Constant communication and sticking to

our principles have been the keys to making us a great defensive team," Gardner said.

The Jays' second game of the week was against Dickinson, a team that is battling for a spot in the Conference playoffs. Hopkins would take advantage of their home court in a 62-52 win to push their winning streak to seven.

The game was close at the start, as the Red Devils held onto a lead for the first 10 minutes, though never by more than five points. The Blue Jays would take over from the 10-minute mark, turning an 18-14 Dickinson lead on its head with 15 straight points to take a commanding 29-18 lead.

Hopkins led 30-24 at

halftime, again thanks to the outstanding defense. They held the Red Devils to six-for-22 shooting from the field and an even more impressive zero-for-eight shooting from three. Though Dickinson shot the ball poorly from the field, they managed to make 12 free throws for half of their first-half points on 13 attempts.

In the second half, the Blue Jays would not look back, leading from start to finish and never allowing the Red Devils to get any closer than four points.

After Dickinson scored on their first possession of the second half, the stingy Hopkins defense would not allow another score until there were 15 minutes and 48 seconds remaining in the game, at which point they had ballooned their lead to 42-26.

From that point on, they would keep control of the game and eventually win by 10. While the Jays did not shoot particularly well — 29.6 percent from the field and 27.3 percent from three — Gardner and Doran scored 18 and 16 points, respectively, and they both shot two for five from three.

Gardner is now averag-

ing 14.2 points per game, thanks to five straight double-digit scoring games.

"After having a cold stretch a few weeks ago, our coaches kept instilling confidence in me, telling me to let it fly whenever I see an opening," Gardner said.

Hopkins gets another home game against the only team in the Conference ahead of them, the Swarthmore College Garnet.

Swarthmore is currently ranked 11th in the country but lost a game last week to Muhlenberg College, opening a door for the Blue Jays to control their own destiny.

If Hopkins can win, they will be in a great position with the postseason approaching. Currently, there are only two games left to play in the Centennial Conference.

"I'm definitely most excited about making a run for the Conference title and hopefully moving onto the NCAA tournament," Doran said.

The Blue Jays look to continue their momentum all the way into the Conference Tournament and beyond, starting Saturday at home against Swarthmore.

# W. Basketball falls to Gettysburg in fourth

By ESTHER HONG  
Sports Editor

On Wednesday, Jan. 31, the Hopkins women's basketball team traveled to Gettysburg, Pa. to take on the Gettysburg College Bullets for the second time this season.

The last two matchups between the two teams ended in the Blue Jays' defeat; the first being last year's season-ending loss in the Centennial Conference semifinals and the second being a home game earlier this season.

This time around, the Jays used these past losses to fuel their fire. However, despite the team's deep motivation to end their losing streak against the Bullets, Hopkins was unable to capitalize on and convert their scoring opportunities in the last few minutes of the game.

"We came out really strong against Gettysburg defensively in the first half," junior forward Maggie Spitzer said. "Our intensity dropped in the fourth quarter, though, and we struggled to get stops and execute offensively when Gettysburg went on a run."

Throughout the first quarter, both teams exchanged points, frequently finding the score tied. Despite impressive offensive efforts from junior guard Lillian Scott and sophomore forward Kenz Wilkinson, the Bullets' leading scorer Emma Dorshimer drained a last-minute three to put Gettysburg up by one.

The second quarter was also marked by back-and-forth action. Junior forward Marissa Varnado, who recently came back from a nearly season-ending injury, put the Jays back on top with an easy three. Spitzer rode the momentum, putting in a layup to put the Blue Jays' up by four.

Junior guard Madison McGrath battled back Gettysburg's attempts to cut the deficit with a deep three. However, Dorshimer responded quickly and scored a three of her own for the Bullets, tying the score up at 20.

Hopkins did not let the close score affect their play, as they proceeded to go on a 5-0 run. The Bullets made a quick offensive play to earn two more points, but Hopkins still took the lead at the end of the half.

After an early layup by Spitzer in the third, the Bul-

lets continued to fight back, tallying six straight points to steal the lead. Hopkins responded with its own run, cutting the deficit to just one point.

Then, with less than four minutes left in the third quarter, a layup by Gettysburg forward Meredith Brown quickly gave the Bullets a three-point advantage.

The Blue Jays took back the lead once again after junior guards Sophia Way, Lexie Scholtz and Scott converted impressive shots to cut the Blue Jays' deficit and bring the score to 39-36. However, within the last moments of the third, the Bullets went on a 4-0 run to end the quarter 40-39.

Despite close scores throughout the entire game, Gettysburg pulled ahead in the fourth and outscored the Jays 25-12. The Bullets scored the first six points of the quarter, setting the tone for the remainder of the game. The Bullets took the Centennial Conference victory over Hopkins, with a final score of 65-51.

Moving forward, the Blue Jays have a chance to see Gettysburg once more in the Centennial Conference playoffs if the next few games go in the Jays' favor.

"We should see Gettysburg for a third time in the playoffs, and that will be another exciting chance to prove that we can beat a good team when we play with intensity for the entire 40 minutes," Spitzer said.

The team plans on making immediate improvements to head into the end of the regular season with a confident mindset.

"We are working on staying more composed in the fourth quarter of close games, valuing each possession and maintaining intensity offensively and defensively down the stretch," Spitzer said.

Despite the disappointing loss, several Jays had standout performances. Scott led the Jays offensively with 17 points, and Way followed closely with 10 points. Junior forward Rory Cole recorded 11 rebounds, extending her double-digit rebound streak to four straight games.

Hopkins will return to Goldfarb Gymnasium on Saturday, Feb. 10 to face off the Swarthmore Garnet for the second time this season. Tipoff will be at 1 p.m.

## Why rooting against a top team is fun



Brandon Wolfe  
Sportpinion

As Philly fans continue to run through the streets of the City of Brotherly Love in just their underwear, Patriots fans are beginning to try and cope with the reality that they lost the Super Bowl to a backup quarterback.

One of the most interesting aspects about sports is the fact that rooting against certain teams can be almost as fun as rooting for your own team, and it's been very easy to root against the Patriots over the past several years.

Whether it's been Spygate, Deflategate or just being-sick-and-tired-of-Brady-winning-Super-Bowls-gate, it seems that many football fans have united to hate New England.

As a Pittsburgh fan, the only positive outcome that could have happened would have been if both teams had lost. But since that could not happen, I swallowed my pride and became an Eagles fan for the day for the sake of rooting against the Patriots, joining millions of other football fans whose favorite teams were unable to run the gauntlet to the biggest Sunday of the year.

And who can blame them? Many fans have been

sick and tired of New England's winning ways.

Since 2001, the New England Patriots have won the AFC East every season but two. They have won the AFC Championship eight times. They've won five Super Bowls under the leadership of the man of 1,000 frowns, Bill Belichick, and with the man who has become to be known as "the GOAT," Tom Brady.

Is it out of a lack of respect for that team? No, it is mere jealousy, because everybody wants to see their favorites be on top, and watching another team that they don't care about consistently be better than their own makes fans jealous and makes us vie for change in the form of rooting for the underdogs.

We are a country that loves underdogs. We love watching people beat the odds and overcome some great force. When was the last time you watched a movie about a character who faced no adversity and accomplished a goal as the heavy favorite?

It is no fun to see the same person or same team consistently win, unless you are referring to the United States in the World Wars, in which case go USA, but our society gravitates towards Cinderella stories. They make people feel good, and they like to see people or teams beat the odds.

Think about this: Unless the team that you root for has a rivalry with an underperforming team, do you root against them?

Take the University of Central Florida's football team this year. The Knights went from 0-12 in 2015 to undefeated this past season, leaving them as the only

team in the NCAA without a loss when the dust settled at the end of the season.

Did their claims of being the "true national champions" ruffle some feathers?

Of course, but was anyone without a dog in the fight rooting against UCF? No, because the Knights were a feel-good story that appeased the common fan.

Take March Madness as another example. Very few people want to see the four number one seeds dominate throughout, they want to see upsets. They want to see the little guy come out on top. They want to see the unpredictable. That's where the hatred for the Patriots comes in.

People acknowledge that Tom Brady is one of the greatest quarterbacks of all time, but they also acknowledge that he has had his time in the sun and that it gets annoying constantly seeing him at the top. Sure, there are other reasons to dislike a team, but there's no denying that few things put bigger targets on your back than winning. This is because winning means media coverage and exposure, and overexposure can become very annoying and lead to more and more scrutiny.

In an era of social media, this scrutiny is almost always one click away. Whether it is a video of a referee seeming to celebrate with Patriot players or a Youtube video detailing how the entirety of the 2017 NFL season was rigged for New England to win the Super Bowl, people will find ways to broadcast their distaste to the masses.

As long as the Patriots remain near the top, this will continue, and as new teams climb the mountain and become constant fixtures of success, they too will face the wrath of the jealous fan, and us jealous fans will continue to root for the underdogs.



HOPKINSPORTS.COM

The Blue Jays currently sit in fourth place in the Centennial Conference.

SPORTS

Expectations are high for U.S. figure skaters

OLYMPICS, FROM B12  
women's short program at Nationals, which she achieved in 2017.

Joining Nathan Chen on the men's team is fellow teenager Vincent Zhou. At 17, Zhou is not only the youngest U.S. skater but also the youngest U.S. Olympian competing in PyeongChang.

Since 2009, he has garnered nine national and three international titles, including 2017 World Junior Champion. At the 2017 Nationals, competing as a senior, he came in second to Chen.

This year, recovering from a recent shoulder dislocation, he fought hard to move up from fifth place after the short program, which lasts a little under three minutes.

After an ambitious free skate in which he attempted five quads, receiving full marks for one and partial credit for three others, he missed out on second place by less than a point.

While Zhou may not be as technically proficient as Chen, his ability to even attempt five quads still gives him an edge over other competitors and helps counterbalance his artistry, which is not as strong.

The Veterans

In her debut season as a junior skater in 2007, 13-year-old Mirai Nagasu won the National Championship and placed second at Junior Worlds. The following year, Nagasu won the National Championship as a senior, becoming the second-youngest woman in history to win a senior ladies title.

Too young to compete as a senior internationally, Nagasu went on to win bronze at the 2008 Junior Worlds. By 2010 Nagasu had three junior and four senior titles under her belt. She came in second at Nationals and was sent to represent Team USA in Vancouver at 16, where she placed fourth.

Flash forward to the 2014 Nationals: Nagasu came in third but was not sent back to the Games.

Similar to gymnastics judging procedures, placement at Nationals is not the sole determining factor in who goes to the Olympics.

Instead U.S. Figure Skating has the final call and considers skaters' overall performance records at national and international competitions.

Fourth-place finisher Ashley Wagner was given the third slot instead, based on her stronger international record, and she went on to win a team bronze medal.

After 2014 Nagasu earned two more international titles and placed fourth at the 2015 and 2016 Nationals. Last month she came in second, 17 points ahead of Wagner, securing her spot on a second Olympic team.

Rounding out the men's team is 28-year-old Adam Rippon, who is competing in his first Games and is the first openly gay athlete to qualify for a Winter

Olympics.

Between 2005 and 2009, Rippon earned nine national and international titles as a junior skater. He won his first and only senior international title in 2010.

In 2016 he won his first domestic senior title at Nationals. Last month he came in second following the short program but was bumped down to fourth after a disappointing free skate.

However, due to his stronger international standing, Rippon was chosen for the Olympic team over silver medalist Ross Miner, who moved up from sixth after the short program with a phenomenal free skate.

While Rippon's record is not as strong as those of Zhou and Chen, his years of dedication to the sport should not be overlooked.

When to Watch

The men and women will begin their Olympic journeys with the team event, similar to that of gymnastics, in which the singles, pairs and ice dancing skaters compete for points as a whole. The event begins tonight at 8 p.m. EST and concludes Sunday.

Rippon, Zhou and Nathan Chen will skate in the men's singles event on Feb. 15 and 16. Tennell, Nagasu and Karen Chen will follow in the women's on Feb. 20 and 22.

By EMILIE HOFFER  
Sports Editor

Last weekend the men's and women's swim teams traveled down to Chapel Hill, N.C., for their last shot at qualifying for Nationals. The weekend-long Janis Hape Dowd Carolina College Nike Invitational, hosted by the University of North Carolina (UNC) and Duke University, was highlighted by numerous personal-best performances and NCAA B cuts to cap off the last meet of the regular season.

On Friday, the Jays kicked off their first day in the pool with seven personal bests. To start, freshman Noah Frassard took third in the 200 IM, posting both a personal-best time and an NCAA B cut in the prelim.

Next, freshman Christopher Arena led the Blue Jays in the 500 Free, clocking a time of 4:32, good enough for fourth place. Arena was followed by classmate Matt McGough, who earned a close fifth-place finish. Both of the freshmen posted personal bests in the event and NCAA B cuts.

The men's team also had an impressive showing in the 400 Medley Relay, taking first place with a time of 3:26. The relay team was made up of seniors Ronan Corgel and Luke Johnson, as well as sophomores Jasper Van Cauwelaert and Matthew Garza.

The women also opened with many strong performances, which culminated in five personal bests and nine NCAA B cuts in just the

By DAVID GLASS  
Staff Writer

Last weekend, the Hopkins men's and women's track and field teams competed in the Frank Colden Invitational in Collegeville, Pa. The Blue Jays had a combined six first-place finishes, with both teams contributing three apiece.

On the women's side, sophomore Faith Brown finished in first place in the high jump, recording a mark of 1.52 meters. Sophomore Samantha Levy finished the mile with a time of 5:10.84, earning the underclassman her first collegiate win.

However, the Jays stole the show in the pole vault. Senior Helen Girod took first, tying a personal best of 3.35 meters. Junior Catharine Wain took second, setting a new personal best of 3.20 meters. Freshman Annie Gutierrez and sophomore Sophia Cortazzo also saw the podium, tying for third with a mark of 3.05 meters.

The men also had a strong showing, starting off with senior Brandon Fielder, who placed first in the mile with a time of 4:22.75 and third in the 800-meter run, finishing in 1:58.76.

Hopkins dominated the 3000-meter run, claiming the top three spots. Junior Liam Wall finished first, and freshmen Connor Delahanty and Patrick Dye followed close behind.

Despite many outstanding performers, sophomore Matthew Su has been named *The News-Letter's* Athlete of the Week for his impressive finishes at the Invitational.

With a mark of 6.97

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK  
MATTHEW SU — TRACK & FIELD

meter, Su took first place in the long jump. He followed that up by claiming second place in the 60-meter hurdles, finishing in 9.10 seconds and capping off a stellar weekend for the Blue Jays.

Su spoke with *The News-Letter* about his performance this past weekend, his preparation for his events and his views on the season going forward.

*The News-Letter:* How do you feel about placing first in long jump and second in hurdles? How has your performance in these events grown since your freshman year?

Matthew

Su: It was definitely a morale booster to have done well at this meet. I had been struggling a little bit earlier this season in terms of performance and results, so it was exciting to see my marks back up to where they were. On paper, these performances are close to the same as my freshman year, but this year I know I still have improvements to make. Throughout our training, Coach [Alex] Jebb has given us various performance tests that show I am definitely a better athlete than I was my freshman year, so I am excited to see those improvements translate into my results later on this season.

*N-L:* What is your favorite event and why?

*MS:* My favorite event

has always been long jump. When I first started, I had tried all the different events, and long jump just clicked for me. In my first meet, I competed in long jump, and I remember how much I loved it. That hasn't changed to this day. That feeling of just flying through the air doesn't come around often.

*N-L:* In the moments right before the event, how do you physically and mentally prepare yourself? What is the mindset that you go in with, and does this change with each event?

MS :

Physically, I try to stay relaxed and warm up like I always do, trying to be as consistent as possible from meet to meet. Different events vary a little in terms of warming up, but for the same event I always try to do the same thing. Mentally I try to block everything out and just try to stay relaxed. My mindset always changes from meet to meet. It really depends on my goals, as there are different things to focus on for each meet and each event.

*N-L:* With track being an individual sport (excluding relays), how does the team dynamic impact your overall performance?

*MS:* The team here is so close that they are like my second family. That team dynamic definitely helps my individual perfor-

mance. Coach [Bobby] Van Allen always encourages us to feed off each other's success. When a teammate has a great performance it really gets me excited and gives me that energy and adrenaline which in turn helps me perform well.

*N-L:* What are your personal goals for the rest of the season?

*MS:* My personal goal for the season is to qualify for Nationals and then hopefully compete well enough to place when I'm there.

*N-L:* How do you feel going into next week's David Emery Invitational?

*MS:* I'm definitely excited to compete at Boston University after having a strong performance this weekend. Their track is one of the nicest ones out there, and there are some phenomenal athletes that compete there, so as a team we always look for big performances there.

Catch Su and the Blue Jays on Friday, Feb. 9, in Boston, Mass. as they compete in the David Emery Invitational at Boston University.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM  
Sophomore Matthew Su.

M. and W. Swimming earn NCAA qualifying times at Nike Invite

first night of competition. The 200 Free Relay, consisting of senior Anna Wisniewski, sophomore Kristen Petersen, freshman Mikayla Bisignani and sophomore Alison Shapiro, posted a NCAA B cut time and also took first place in the event. Their time of 1:33 is the sixth fastest in program history.

Next, senior Courtney Cowan and freshman Emma McElrath finished two-three in the 500 Free, both posting NCAA B cuts. The Blue Jays came up big in the 200 IM, with four swimmers touching with NCAA B cuts. The Jays were led by sophomore Michelle Wang, who finished in third with a career-best time of 2:04. Following Wang were seniors Gwynnie LaMastra in fourth, Wisniewski in sixth and Kaitlin Jones in seventh.

For their efforts this past weekend, Wang and Wisniewski were honored by *CollegeSwimming.com*. Wang was named the women's D-III Swimmer of the Week and Wisniewski the Independent Swimmer of the Week.

On the second day of competition, junior Erik Bostrom led the men in the 400 IM with a NCAA B cut time of 4:00, good enough for a second-place finish. Following Bostrom was McGough, who also posted a B cut time and third-place finish in the event.

Taking first place in the 100 Breast, junior Peter Lazorchak clocked an NCAA B cut time of 56.20. He was followed by his teammates freshman Mar-

celo Lauzurique and senior Colby Yu, who both placed personal-best times in the event.

Yu, in his senior season, trained through injury and ended his collegiate career on a high note.

"Gradually over my four years of college, I realized that swimming is more about the process," Yu said. "I know that I worked hard this season, even with a broken hand, and because of that, no matter the results, I know I put in 100 percent."

The men finished the second day with two more personal-best performances by junior Michael Wohl in the 200 Free and senior Austin Wilson in the 100 Free. Wohl's time was also a NCAA B cut time.

Along with Wang, Wohl was named the men's D-III Swimmer of the Week by *CollegeSwimming.com* for his performance at the Nike Invitational this past weekend.

The women had an equally impressive second day of competition, which was kicked off by a two-three-four finish in the 100 Fly. Leading the way was Wisniewski, who posted an NCAA B cut time, followed by juniors Natalia Rincon and Elizabeth Duncan.

La Ma s-

tra then raced in the 100 Breast, posting an NCAA B cut time and the fifth fastest time in program history. LaMastra was followed closely by Jones, who also got an NCAA B cut.

The third and final day of competition ended a historic weekend for the Blue Jays.

The men finished the third day by adding six more NCAA B cut times to their long list of qualifiers. Wohl posted another B cut time in the 100 Free, taking fourth place in the event.

Next, Lauzurique took first in the 200 Breast, posting a B cut time and a personal best. He was followed closely by Van Cauwelaert, who also posted a B cut time.

"What was so special about this race was that after all the training we went through together, we all achieved something important, whether it was a personal-best or NCAA B cut," Yu said. "I am happy to have ended my collegiate career with my teammates who I trained the hardest with."

The men finished off

the weekend with a trio of NCAA B cuts in the 1650 Free. The Blue Jays were led by freshman Riley Mears, who posted a personal-best time and finished in third, followed by Arena in fourth and McGough in fifth.

The women finished off their weekend with five more NCAA B cuts in the third day of competition. Wang took second place in the 200 Back with a personal best in the event. In the 200 Breast, LaMastra posted a NCAA B cut time and the third fastest time in program history. Jones and sophomore Sonia Lin followed closely with two more B cut times in the event.

Finally the Blue Jays finished off the weekend with an exciting B cut performance in the 400 Medley Relay made up of Petersen and Cowan, senior Lena Bless and senior Sara Wujciak.

The Blue Jays will appear next at the NCAA Swimming & Diving Championship, which is set to take place in Indianapolis, Ind. from March 21 to 24.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM  
Junior Michael Wohl was honored as the men's D-III Swimmer of the Week after the Nike Invite.

## HOPKINS REMEMBERS

## CALENDAR

Former women's basketball head coach Nancy Funk passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 6, after fighting a two-year battle with cancer. She coached the team for 31 years before retiring last year. We send our condolences to her family and those whose lives she touched.

Friday  
W. Lacrosse vs. Marquette: 2 p.m.

Saturday  
W. Basketball vs. Swarthmore: 1 p.m.  
M. Basketball vs. Swarthmore: 3 p.m.  
M. Lacrosse vs. Towson: 6 p.m.

## SPORTS

## Young American stars look to skate to gold



Catherine Palmer  
Sportpinion

**T**hursday marks the kickoff of the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang, South Korea. Among the 243 athletes representing Team USA are six of the best skaters in the world. The following is a look at the careers of the three men and three women going for singles figure skating gold.

## The Prodigy

In 2010, 10-year-old Nathan Chen became the youngest winner of the novice title at the U.S. National Championships. In an interview with NBC's Andrea Joyce, Chen said that he would be going to the 2018 Olympics.

Last month, Chen's prediction came true when he won his second straight and sixth overall National Championship as a senior skater by a margin of 41 points.

Now 18 years old, Chen is a definite contender for the gold medal. In addition to his national success, Chen also has won 13 international titles since 2009.

To reference a more household name, Chen is the Simone Biles of the ice skating world. His programs are both more technically difficult and more flawlessly executed than pretty much anyone else.

At the 2017 Nationals, he became the first skater to land five quadruple jumps in a long program (or free skate), which lasts about 4.5 minutes. This year, even while slightly under-the-weather, he landed five again. For perspective, many skaters never even

attempt one, let alone land it successfully.

Chen's artistry is not lacking either. Skating scores are calculated based on not only technical merit and required elements but also on presentation. Aided by a background in ballet and gymnastics, Chen has the unique ability to excel in both facets of the competition, which makes him nearly unbeatable.

## The Rising Stars

Bradie Tennell, who turned 20 last month, is the ultimate dark-horse Olympian. Prior to 2017, she had four national titles to her name and only one as a senior. At the 2017 Nationals, she placed ninth. This season, everything changed.

Over the summer, she won her first international title. In November, she made her debut at a Grand Prix (GP) competition as a senior and placed third, becoming the first female skater in 10 years to medal in a GP debut.

Then, last month, she won Nationals, beating out 2010 Olympian Mirai Nagasu, who came in second, and 2014 Olympic bronze medalist Ashley Wagner, who came in fourth.

It's difficult to predict if Tennell's meteoric rise will continue in PyeongChang, but she's certainly proved that anything is possible.

Joining Tennell on the women's team is 18-year-old Karen Chen, the 2017 National Champion. Since 2009, she has won eight national and two international titles. She also notably placed third in her senior national debut at the 2015 Nationals.

In addition to being a world-class skater, Chen is also a skilled choreographer. In fact, she won Nationals last year and placed third this year with programs she choreographed herself.

Chen also holds the record for the highest score (72.82) ever given in a

SEE OLYMPICS, PAGE B11

## M. Basketball moves to third in Conference



HOPKINSPORTS.COM

The men's basketball team extends their win streak to seven games after two victories against Conference leaders Gettysburg and Dickinson. Standout performers included junior guard Michael Gardner and senior forward Kyle Doran. This Saturday, the Jays face off the only team ranked higher in the Conference standings: the Swarthmore Garnet. The matchup could determine which team receives home-court advantage come the Centennial Conference Tournament.

PAGE B10

## W. Basketball falls short to Gettysburg

**I**  
**N**  
**S**  
**I**  
**D**  
**E**

The women's basketball team faced off the Gettysburg Bullets last Wednesday. Maintaining a close game in the first three quarters, the Jays could not keep up, as the Bullets took the last lead.

PAGE B10

## Athlete of the Week: Matthew Su

Sophomore Matthew Su capped off an impressive weekend for the Blue Jays' track team by taking a first-place finish in the long jump and a second-place finish in the 600-meter hurdles.

PAGE B11

## The evil Tom Brady empire takes a blow

**I**  
**N**  
**S**  
**I**  
**D**  
**E**

Fans rejoiced when the Super Bowl clock struck zero, not because the Eagles had won but because the Patriots had lost. Because the Patriots have done so well, people love to root against them.

PAGE B10

## Wrestling finishes third to upset preseason polls

By MATTHEW RITCHIE  
For The News-Letter

The Hopkins wrestling team rounded out their Centennial Conference schedule this past weekend in their final dual meet. The team faced two Conference foes: the United States Merchant Marine Academy and the 17th-ranked Stevens Institute of Technology, who currently lead the Conference standings.

Hopkins began their day against the Merchant Marine Mariners. The Jays started off hot, winning the first three periods as senior Christian Vallis started the team off strong with a 6-0 win at the 125-pound weight class.

Junior Ricky Cavallo continued the winning trend by securing a 17-0 technical-fall victory in the second period. This, combined with senior Lucas Escobar's pin at 141, allowed Hopkins to gain a 17-0 lead, giving them a huge advantage from the start.

However, the Mariners did not back down without a fight. The opposition reduced the deficit to 17-12 through three straight victories at the 157, 165 and 174 weight classes. The tight score set up a pivotal match in the 184-pound weight class between junior Isaac Morales and Merchant Marine sophomore Kurtis Hahn.

The matchup proved to be a tough bout that went

a long way toward deciding the winner of the meet. Morales, who had won nine straight matches at that point, proved to be the better man that day, defeating Hahn 7-5. His victory pushed the margin to 20-12. It proved to be much needed, as the Mariners were able to take the next two match-ups with a technical-fall victory and a decision.

These two results pushed the score to 20-20, causing the final result of the match to be decided by two criteria. The first was the number of individual bouts won by each team. However, because this was equal at five, this criterion was pushed aside.

The second criterion was which team had the higher number of wins via pinfall. Thanks to Escobar's pin, the Blue Jays won this criterion 1-0, handing them the overall victory.

Hopkins ended the day with a match-up against the Stevens Institute of Technology Ducks. The Ducks' three nationally-ranked wrestlers at 133, 141 and 157, ranked No. 1, No. 1 and No. 4 in their respective weight categories, proved to be too much for the Blue Jays.

Stevens won nine out of the 10 bouts in the match. The wins came by way of decision and technical fall. Even with the tough decisions against the Ducks, Vallis was encouraged by the team's performance. The team showed heart and

grit against one of the top teams in the nation.

"Stevens has consistently been one of the top-ranked teams in the country. While the overall team score doesn't show it, we wrestled hard and really pushed some of their highly-ranked guys," Vallis said.

The lone Blue Jay to take a match was Morales again, who extended his personal winning streak to 11 matches. His performance over the weekend further improved his Centennial Conference record. The junior was able to achieve a perfect record of 7-0 in Conference dual meets this season.

Morales' hot streak will hopefully bode well for him and the Jays at the Centennial Conference Tournament on Saturday, Feb. 10.

Vallis is confident and trusts the process that the team has been following throughout the season.

"Truthfully, I think we

stick with what has worked all season," Vallis said. "Watching film and game-planning for certain opponents will help not only for this week but in the Regional Tournament and ultimately the National Tournament as well."

The team's season has been defined by going out and meeting their expectations while invalidating outside opinions. Vallis echoes this sentiment.

"Being picked to be second to last in the Conference and ultimately finishing in the top three proves that we believe in ourselves and in our coaching staff to get us where we want to be," Vallis said.

The gutsy group will be chomping at the bit to come out on top next week at the Conference playoffs. On Saturday, Feb. 10, Hopkins will head to Washington & Lee University to compete in the Conference Tournament.



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Senior Lucas Escobar earns a pin to boost the Jays' lead over Merchant Marine.



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Nathan Chen predicted eight years ago that he would go to these Olympics.